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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least and 5 the most, how would you rate the trustworthiness of the CNMI's election process?

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BUSINESS

Signs suggest that the next four years will have a healthier U.S. economy.
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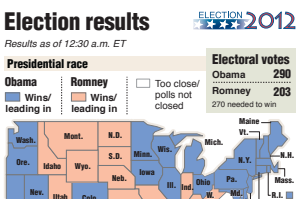

President Barack Obama rolls to re-election, vanquishing Mitt Romney.
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Sablan to lead new set of Chamber of Commerce officers. PAGE 7

'RESIGN NOW OR BE IMPEACHED'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Fitial: Put politics aside, put CNMI first

A day after giving Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Republican Party candidates and supporters a heavy beating in the midterm elections, anti-corruption lawmakers and advocates asked the governor yesterday to step down now or be impeached by a new House majority in January 2013.

See RESIGN on Page 4

POST-ELECTION CLEANUP
A maintenance worker mops yesterday the floor of the Legislature, which still has the voting booths used during Tuesday's midterm elections. The 18th House of Representatives, which will take over in January 2013, will have a new leadership that is now calling on the governor to step down now or be impeached.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Kilili looks forward to working with Obama again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Fresh off an unprecedented landslide victory, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he looks forward to working again with U.S. President Barack Obama, who was also re-elected yesterday.

"I am very pleased that the people continue to put their trust in me. It's more than the number of votes, but the trust people put in me," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Obama, a Democrat, endorsed Sablan's re-

See KILILI on Page 4

Manglona

Cabrera

House speaker, Senate president lose seats

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In a rare moment in CNMI history, both the sitting leaders of the CNMI House of Representatives and Senate lost their seats in an election. House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) lost their re-election bids on Tuesday.

Cabrera was one of the 10 Republicans aligned with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial who voted against a resolution

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Obama wins but Washington unchanged

By BEN FELLER
AP WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

AP Analysis

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's victory means that everything he campaigned upon is alive and about to drive the political conversation with his adversaries. Every legacy of his first term is safe and enshrined to history.

Yet big honeymoons don't come twice and Republicans won't swoon. If Obama cannot end gridlock, his second term will be re-

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Local

No pending complaints, concerns on commission's table

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero disclosed yesterday that no pending complaints or concerns are on the commission's table that may affect the official results of the election.

He revealed that all issues raised to the agency were properly addressed as the election closed Tuesday at 7pm.

Contrary to reports that the commission received some complaints of election irregularities last Tuesday, Guerrero said there was actually only one major complaint brought to the agency's table, which was rectified in a timely manner after thorough checks and verification.

Guerrero was referring to the case of Kimberly Nicole Castro Reyes who discovered that someone had voted for her during Tuesday's election.

Guerrero said the complaint was immediately addressed after finding out errors on the part of the poll workers who were assigned to Reyes' precinct. The Office of Attorney General, he said, assisted the agency in this matter. Reyes was then given a provisional ballot inside an envelope and signed an affidavit.

Although commission workers received information about some supporters who may probably have been violating the 300-foot distance requirement from the polling place, Guerrero described this matter as a "routine" issue during elections and were addressed by CEC right away.

"Other than Ms. Reyes' case… nothing is pending at CEC with regards to any possible election irregularities this midterm election," added Guerrero.

He praised the hard work demonstrated by his staff and representatives of government agencies and organizations to ensure a smooth flow in Tuesday's elections.

The 2012 mid-term polls was described as generally peaceful and quiet.

This year's election had a 75-percent voter turnout, an increase over the 2010's special election, which only had a 68-percent turnout. Registered voters totaled 16,771, of which 12,599 actually participated in the election.

Guerrero believes that a major factor in the higher turnout this year was due to an increase in the number of early voters and the aggressive push of candidates for their supporters to come out and vote.

Guerrero disclosed that of the 12,599 ballots that were counted, 23 percent were from early voters, totaling 2,910. Saipan had the biggest early voters at 2,389. Tinian had 175 early voters while Rota has 346.

Absentee ballots this year totaled 1,1515—or 12 percent of the total ballots counted.

This year was the first time that the election for CNMI delegate to Congress and the mid-term elections were held simultaneously.

COUNTING THE VOTES CLARISSA V. DAVID

Staff of the Commonwealth Election Commission, along with board chair Frances M. Sablan, are seen working on the absentee voting ballots early Wednesday morning. The Commonwealth Election Commission wrapped up tabulation of votes at 6:20am Wednesday.

Wiseman gives voters thanks for his retention

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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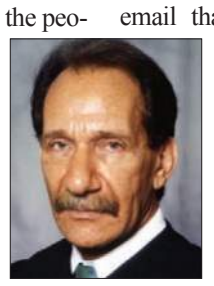
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman expressed his appreciation for the vote of confidence and trust by the people of the CNMI, who retained him for another six-year term in the bench in the Nov. 6 mid-term polls.



Wiseman

The retention of Wiseman, whose second term expires in March 2013, received a "very favorable" election result of 9,298 "yes" votes and 2,536 "no" votes.

While he was optimistic about being retained as a judge, Wiseman said he did not expect the "overwhelming" outcome of 79 percent, which was several notches up from his 72 percent retention in 2005.

By March 2013, Wiseman would have put 12 years of service on the bench. He said via email that he is humbled by the support he has received from the CNMI and its "wonderful" people.

"Providing public service for me is of a high order in life and this vote of confidence has inspired me to continue that service with my deep sense of honor, commitment, and integrity," Wiseman told *Saipan Tribune*. "I look forward to continuing to meet the unique and special challenges that come before me as a judge of the Honorable Superior Court of the CNMI."

Besides Wiseman, Associate Judge Perry B. Inos was also assured on Tuesday of a second six-year term once his first term expires in September 2014.

Inos, who began serving the Superior Court on Sept. 22, 2008, obtained 9,652 "yes" votes and 2,173 "no" votes, which translates to 82-percent retention mark.

Alexandro C. Castro, who was also up for retention this year, had already been nominated and confirmed as chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who nominated Castro, also administered the latter's oath of office during the investiture ceremony last Oct. 26.

'Independents' rule Tinian; municipality welcomes outcome

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two independent candidates on Tinian won big during Tuesday's mid-term elections.

Former Tinian mayor Francisco M. Borja emerged victorious in the two-way race for the senatorial seat for Tinian. Borja run and defeated his lone opponent, Joaquin Borja, who was fielded by the Republican Party.

The former mayor finished strong with a 255-vote advantage after receiving 702 votes against the GOP bet's 450 votes.

For the House seat, incumbent independent candidate Trenton Conner bested the GOP's Edwin Aldan in the two-way race.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz yesterday welcomed the victory of independent candidates on the island.

"All in all, I am quite pleased with the outcome of yesterday's election. All our independent candidates won, except for councilman Jose Cruz," said the mayor, referring to municipal council bet Joseph Cruz.

Three council members were voted into office: Reynaldo Cing, Antonio Borja, and Esteban Cabrera. Three municipal council candidates lost this year: Patrick Manglona, Eugenio Henry Villagomez, and Joseph Cruz.

Dela Cruz

According to Mayor Dela Cruz, the win of the independent candidates demonstrates that Tinian voters recognized the hard work they have put into revitalizing Tinian's economy during these troubled times.

Dela Cruz said that upon taking office, Tinian faced a seven-digit deficit. Although not all debts have been paid in full, he said Tinian managed to bring expenditures under control and regain the confidence of the local business community.

Dela Cruz is grateful to his resident department heads for the job they have done the last three years, bringing the cost of government operations under control.

"We have lived within our budget, while still meeting the daily obligations of public service," said the mayor.

When asked why he thought the Tinian election was so successful, the mayor attributed this to the hard work of all employees who, despite their low salaries and lack of materials, consistently get the job done.

He also attributes this year's success to the significant support received by the administration from Sen. Henry San Nicolas and his family who were on the "other" political side during the last election.

The mayor said Tinian leaders, including the newly elected independent lawmakers, will all continue working hard to improve the island economy. Dela Cruz said Tinian needs to bring more direct flights to the island, hasten the military buildup, and champion the development of alternative energy that will reduce utility costs on the island, among other priorities.

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Three initiatives approved; two judges retained

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

CNMI voters approved the three legislative initiatives on the ballot in Tuesday's elections, including one that seeks to authorize the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents to revise the college's mission statement.

Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12 gathered a total of 10,084 "yes" votes as opposed to 4,152 "no" votes, allowing the NMC board to establish a mission statement that reflects the changing needs of the Commonwealth's lone community college and comply with accreditation requirements.

Meanwhile, House Legislative Initiative 17-2, HD3, HS2 will amend Article 3, Section 11 of the CNMI Constitution, making the attorney general an elected position. The initiative received a resounding 9,248 "yes" votes compared to 1,326 "no" votes.

The third approved initiative was H.L.I. 17-5, which now authorizes the Commonwealth to issue a pension obligation bond to help pay the judgment issued in favor of the NMI Retirement Fund and against the Commonwealth for unpaid employer contributions. A total of 6,876 voters said yes to HLI 17-5, while 4,152 voted no.

Voters decided to retain two associate judges. David A. Wiseman earned 9,298 yes votes and 2,536 no votes, while Perry B. Inos received 9,652 yes votes and 2,173 no votes.

Saipan and Northern Island constituents re-elected Ramon "RB" Camacho to the Municipal Council and also voted Antonia M. Tudela to the same body.

The top three winners for the Tinian Municipal Council were Antonio SN Borja, Raynaldo M.Cing, and Estevan P. Cabrera. On Rota, the successful candidates were Gardner Barcinas, Glenn L. Maratita, and George O. Hocog.

The Commonwealth Election Commission wrapped up tabulation of votes at 6:20am yesterday morning.

'The people have not just spoken, they have shouted'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

That's how Glen Hunter described the results of the Nov. 6 mid-term elections, particularly the strong showing of the "Noble Nine"—the nine lawmakers who voted "yes" on the impeachment bid against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty charges.

Hunter said the election results showed "a very strong statement" from the public.

He said the Noble Nine not only secured seats in the 18th Legislature but also a public mandate "to finish what they started."

"So many great people set an example for this CNMI for so many years," he said. "They planted the seeds of hope and change. What we see before us today is a grand harvest of what has sprung from those seeds. I am so thankful for all the hardships they endured and the perseverance and determination they showed. I am so proud to witness firsthand this rising tide of hope for the CNMI."

Hunter is one of the founders of a newly formed civic action group called Rising Tide, which is a staunch advocate of government accountability and transparency in the CNMI. Its mission is to end public corruption on the islands and restore people's trust in government by improving the credibility and integrity of future elections in the CNMI.

Over 40 group volunteers manned five of the 10 polling stations on island for the 12-hour voting period during Tuesday's Election Day, which Hunter said was part of Rising Tide's nonpartisan Election Observation project.

"The first ever CNMI citizen-organized election observation project was an amazing success," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*, explaining that Rising Tide was able to mobilize a group of volunteers in a short amount of time.

According to Hunter, the project has three phases—the preparation phase, action phase, and the finalization phase—with the first two phases already completed.

He noted that during the action phase, group volunteers determined "a few points of interest that we will most likely take action on," including looking into current legislation to determine if amendments are needed to allow for nonpartisan citizen oversight.

Hunter said the group is now in the process of completing the finalization phase, which involves processing the information gathered at the electoral precincts to make a detailed report that will be shared with the public.

The project, he added, is one of the many projects that will be undertaken by the new corruption watchdog group.

"We are not only witnessing this rising tide of hope for the CNMI, we are enabling it," said Hunter.

He said they will keep the public updated on the group's activities. Those who want to support the group in any way may email Hunter at glenhunter@gmail.com.

IN HER NEW ROLE AS BOE MEMBER

Tenorio vows to embrace and further strengthen PSS' success

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Janice A. Tenorio will take on a new post next year, this time as a member of the CNMI State Board of Education, after she topped Tuesday's election and won one of the two seats available for Saipan.

Tenorio is currently president of the PSS Parents Advisory Council and heads the William S. Reyes Elementary School PTSA.

In Tuesday's mid-term polls, she garnered the highest total among four candidates on Saipan with 4,399 votes. Tenorio received strong support from all five precincts and secured the most votes from early voters with 979.

"I'm overwhelmed and grateful to everybody who believed in me and gave me their trust. I am excited and look forward to working for students, this time at the board level," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Tenorio believes her voluntarism and involvement in many worthwhile activities propelled her to victory, managing to convince people of her sincerity to serve public schools and its students at a greater level.

Tenorio will join the State Board of Education in January, together with longtime member Herman T. Guerrero, Lucia Blanco-Maratita, re-elected members Marylou Ada, and Denis Tanya King. Ada garnered 4,014 votes and secured the other available seat on Saipan, while King defeated lone opponent Dexter Apatang. On Saipan, the losing BOE candidates were Vic Cepeda and Angel Hocog.

Tenorio vowed to continue embrace and strengthen the success and progress of public school students. She cited her continuing support for the PSS Wellness Policy program as one way to promote and encourage high literacy rates within the system. She underscored the need to nurture literacy in public schools as it serves as a "gateway" to knowledge in many disciplines.

Tenorio received her bachelor's degree from Boise State University in Idaho and master's in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University.

Currently employed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Tenorio also worked at the Northern Marianas College for over 17 years, with her last position as dean of Student Services. She also volunteers for community organizations, including the CNMI/Guam Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Parents Advisory Council for State.

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OBAMA

From Page 1

duced to veto threats, empty promises, end runs around Congress and legacy-sealing forays into foreign lands.

Obama will push for higher taxes on the wealthy as a way to shrinking a choking debt and to steer money toward the programs he wants. He will try to land a massive financial deficit-cutting deal with Congress in the coming months and then move on to an immigration overhaul, tax reform and other bipartisan dreams.

He will not have to worry that his health care law will be repealed, or that his Wall Street reforms will be gutted, or that his name will be consigned to the list of one-term presidents who got fired before they could finish. Voters stuck with him because they trusted him more to solve the struggles of their lifetime.

America may not be filled with hope anymore, but it told Mitt Romney to keep his change. And voters sure didn't shake up the rest of Washington, either.

They put back all the political players who have made the capital dysfunctional to the point of nearly sending the United States of America into default.

"Progress will come in fits and starts," the president cautioned in his victory speech. "The recognition that we have common hopes and dreams won't end all the gridlock ... or substitute for the painstaking work of building consensus. But that common bond is where we must begin."

The president likely will be dealing again with a Republican-run House, whose leader, Speaker John Boehner, declared on election night that his party has orders from voters, too: no higher taxes.

Obama will still have his firewall in the Senate, with Democrats likely to hang onto their narrow majority. But they don't have enough to keep Republicans from bottling up any major legislation with delaying tactics.

HOUSE

From Page 1

impeaching the governor for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

Only three of the 10 won the race but they were at the bottom of the winners' list, including Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), who finished sixth in a 16-way race for six seats in Precinct 3.

Cabrera himself finished 11th in a 12-way race for six seats in Precinct 1.

Fitial's candidates on Rota, however, won.

The governor's candidate, former representative Victor B. Hocog, unseated the CNMI's longest serving lawmaker, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Manglona, in a phone interview yesterday, said he congratulates Hocog and his running mate, incumbent Rep. Teresita Santos, for their win.

"It's time to move on. There are lots of suffering on Rota, we need to come together for our people on Rota. There are talks about the governor being asked to resign or step down so people can really start working together," he said.

Manglona served 25 years in the Legislature.

"My running mate Felix Santos and I felt the election would be much closer. We didn't anticipate such a result," he said.

Hocog got 873 votes, while Manglona got 633, based on partial unofficial election results.

Teresita Santos got 882 votes, while her cousin Felix Santos got 614 votes.

KILILI

From Page 1

election on the eve of the Nov. 6 mid-term elections. Sablan is an independent caucusing with Democrats in U.S. Congress.

"I look forward to continuing to work with President Barack Obama over the next four years, particularly on restoring the economy and tackling comprehensive immigration reform," Sablan said in a statement released by the Kilili for Congress campaign Wednesday morning.

In a separate statement last night, Sablan also hailed Obama's win.

"President Barack Obama has led our nation through a difficult period of history. Now, America has renewed its faith in the President and his leadership to continue moving us forward. The President and his team—and the millions of Americans who supported his re-election effort—are to be congratulated for this remarkable victory," Sablan said.

He said people in the Pacific "feel especially proud, knowing that a man from the islands will be guiding our nation for another four years."

"The President has already demonstrated that he understands America's role in our region of the world; and I expect we will continue to see the President focused on the economic and strategic importance of the Pacific in the days ahead," he said.

Sablan won Tuesday's contest with an unofficial vote count of 9,829—79 percent of the votes cast, unparalleled in CNMI history

Sablan's challenger, Dr. Ignacia "Acha" Demapan of the Republican Party, got only 2,503 votes based on partial, unofficial election results. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, chairman of the Republican Party, wanted Sablan to be replaced with a Republican in Congress.

In a statement, Sablan thanked "everyone who voted for me and to those who helped on our campaign for re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives, especially all of my family and friends and the Kilili for Congress committee members."

"It is an extraordinary privilege to serve as the representative of the people of the Northern Marianas in our national government. [Tuesday's] vote only deepens my sense of responsibility to do everything I can to make life better here in the Northern Mariana Islands. We face incredible challenges both for our islands and for our nation as a whole. But knowing that I have such solid backing from the people I represent gives me the strength that will be needed to take on these difficulties over the next two years," he said in a statement issued by Kilili for Congress.

Sablan also thanked his opponent, Demapan.

"Our democracy thrives when voters have choices. I thank Dr. Demapan for being willing to give voters that choice and to speak out for the ideas she believes in. She conducted herself with grace and dignity throughout the campaign and I am grateful to her," he said.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said he congratulates Sablan for his re-election.

In a phone call from New York, Syed said he hopes that both Sablan and Obama will be able to help the plight of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

"I ask Mr. Sablan to bring alien workers' issue to Washington, D.C., in granting improved status to long-term alien workers in the CNMI… Also I am asking Mr. Sablan to ask President Obama to use his administrative power to grant parole in place to long-term foreign workers until U.S. Congress grants improved status to long-term legal alien workers in the CNMI," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said on behalf of the United Workers Movement-NMI, he also asks Sablan to amend his H.R. 1466, which seeks a CNMI-only resident status to four groups of people, to include more individuals.

Sablan is the Ranking Member on the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. He is also a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

RESIGN

From Page 1

The governor, however, said yesterday that with the election now behind, "it is time for us to put politics aside and put the CNMI first."

"As the 17th Legislature concludes its final months in office, we should not lose sight of our civic duty to serve the people. We must continue to work together to address the immediate pressing issues that we face at the moment," Fitial said in a statement.

The governor, however, didn't directly respond to questions about calls for him to step down or be impeached later on.

Re-elected Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), main author of a defeated resolution impeaching the governor for 16 allegations of felony, corruption, and neglect of duty, and Independent Republican vice chair and former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, along with other key players in an anti-corruption movement, separately called on the governor to "resign now."

"The people have sent a clear message by putting Independent Republicans and Covenant Party members together, to fight corruption. The message to the governor is this: Resign now or we will proceed with the impeachment process in January. We will have a majority in the next Legislature. He has four people to block it," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero and the eight others who voted "yes" to the impeachment resolution won big in Tuesday's elections. Only three of the 10 incumbents aligned with the governor and voted against the impeachment "barely" made it in the polls that saw a voter turnout of some 75 percent.

"People expect us to finish what we started. This is a victory for the people, for all the silent majority that have witnessed, but out of fear held their opinions to themselves, but the election was a chance for them to say they are not going to allow corruption [to continue]," Deleon Guerrero added.

He said people's approval of an elected attorney general legislative initiative was also mainly because of the allegations in the impeachment resolution.

Deleon Guerrero and other Independent Republicans and Covenant Party members have formed an alliance that will become at least a 16-member House majority in the 18th Legislature.

Benavente, also a former speaker, said yesterday that the results of Tuesday's elections were a "clear mandate" by the people.

"The governor should step down immediately," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune*. "Several months ago, I publicly called on the governor to resign or the Legislature to impeach him. Those who didn't agree with the impeachment, people voted them out of office. Now it's no longer from Diego calling the governor to resign immediately. I don't think we should waste people's time and resources in an impeachment in January, he should step down," Benavente added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who won a historic landslide victory against the governor's delegate bet, Dr. Ignacia "Acha" Demapan, said he believes that the Legislature "needs to finish the work it started."

"I encourage members to revisit the articles of impeachment. Once it goes to the Senate for trial, the governor would be given a chance to defend himself. But I believe he should save himself and everyone the trouble by stepping down," Sablan said last night.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), chairman of the Independent Republicans, also said that the election results are a "clear mandate by the people."

"What this election clearly shows is that people are not happy with the current House leadership and stance on issues. They [House leadership] cannot make a decision until they get clearance… The 10 was basically removed…only some won but they're useless in the coming Legislature," said Reyes. He added that he's also "very thrilled" with the result of the Rota election, particularly the victory of former representative Victor Hocog, who defeated Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota). Reyes and Manglona had a falling out.

'Long, divisive campaign'

Fitial said it "has been a long and divisive campaign season."

"I want to acknowledge the candidates of the Republican Party for seeking public office. This is in and of itself a true testament to their love for our islands and our people. This should have been an election about them, their qualifications and their plans. Nonetheless, with the election now behind us, it is time for us to put politics aside and put the CNMI first," he said in a statement.

The governor "congratulate[d] all the victors of [Tuesday's] election and recognize all the candidates for all the handwork of their respective campaigns."

He said during the course of the election, he knew all of the candidates worked very hard for causes in which they believe so deeply in.

"The bedrock of democracy is that we have an opportunity to participate in elections and make choices in our government. No matter the outcome, I believe all our respective campaigns ended just as it started—with a vision for growth and development in our Commonwealth. We owe our people much more than political infighting," he said.

He added, "In this regard, I respectfully seek the cooperation of the incoming members of the 18th Legislature to immediately work together with the administration to, among others, bring reliable and affordable utilities to every home; a stabilized and dependable healthcare system for all citizens; a concrete plan of action of longevity for our retirees' pension and the way forward for the Retirement Fund; and, most importantly, to strengthen our economy and to sustain and create new jobs for our people."

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), one of the 10 who voted "no" to the impeachment resolution and lost in the election, said he believes "100 percent" that his defeat was a result of his position on the impeachment issue.

Palacios said he respects the people's decision but he reiterated that the 18th Legislature should immediately work on issues other than politics or removing the governor.

"The focus should be on the hospital, the Retirement Fund, the economy, boosting tourism… Those talking about impeachment process again should be ashamed of themselves because the governor has repeatedly asked them to work together but they never bothered to work with him or meet with him… The problems we had when we came in in January 2010 are still here; we failed to do our job," he said.

He believes impeaching the governor would further divide the community.

"I hope God will not let that day happen," he added.

House floor leader George Camacho (R-Saipan), one of the two who voted against impeaching the governor but won albeit by a thread, separately said yesterday he's "very humbled" and "very grateful" that people gave him another chance to serve them.

"It's very unfortunate that my colleague, Rep. Sylvester Iguel, didn't make it. I am thankful for Congressman Iguel and his family. I already contacted the congressman-elect, Chris Leon Guerrero, and I look forward to working with him for the community," he said.

Camacho said he himself was surprised that a majority of the GOP lost the election.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), who voted "yes" to the impeachment resolution, said he's also "grateful and humbled" by another opportunity given him to serve the CNMI people.

"It really showed that there's a silent majority, silent supporters. They let the pen do the talking on election day," he said.

Villagomez, however, said that now that the election is over, lawmakers should focus on the four issues that the governor has long wanted to talk to lawmakers about: the economy, the hospital, the Retirement Fund, and utilities.

"I also hope if there's a plan to impeach the governor, there should also be a follow-up or alternative plan. What's the plan once the governor is removed? This shouldn't be only about removing him but how to help the CNMI," he added.

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More information and applications can be found at www.sablan.house.gov, or by calling 670-323-2647 in Saipan, 532-2647 in Rota, or 433-2647 in Tinian. Applications are due December 14, 2012.
Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives

Scenes from the Election

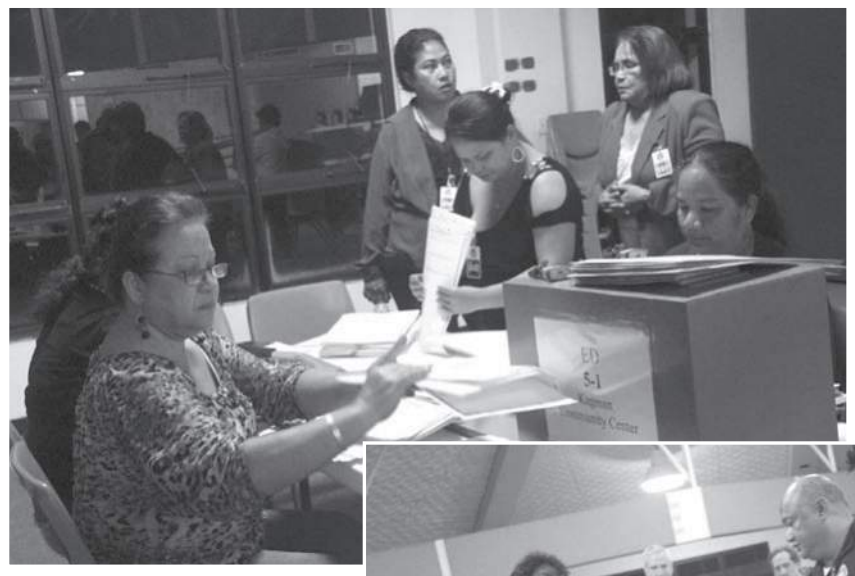
CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman, right, and his wife make a stop at campaign tables near Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque late Tuesday morning. Wiseman was retained.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), left, waits for his name to be found on a list of voters at Garapan Elementary School Tuesday morning.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Frances Yumul, left, and Jessica Deleon Guerrero, right, root for their candidates in front of Tanapag Elementary School.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, left, prepares to hug relatives before voting at Garapan Elementary School yesterday morning.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Commonwealth Election Commission board chair Frances M. Sablan sorts out the absentee voting ballots during the counting Tuesday night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.
CLARISSA V. DAVID



Therese T. Ogumoro and Malua Peter observe as poll supervisors assigned to Kagman Community Center precinct prepare the ballots for counting.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Executive director Robert A. Guerrero of the Election Commission, standing second right, gives instructions to poll supervisors for Dandan Elementary School as Bob Schwalbach, chief of staff of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, and lawyer Michael W. Dotts observe from behind.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

An Election Commission staff inserts the ballots into a machine as police officers look on.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Executive director Robert A. Guerrero of the Commonwealth Election Commission walks past the tabulation committee while preparing for the counting of ballots to begin.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Poll supervisors from Rota arrive at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center at 11:15pm on Tuesday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Sablan to lead new set of Chamber of Commerce officers

» Arctic Circle updates businesses on cargo operations

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan and executive director Richard Pierce join the newly elected 2013 officers and board of directors members for a group photo after yesterday's Chamber monthly meeting at Kanoa Resort Hotel in Susupe.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tan Holdings Corp. vice president Alex Sablan will be leading the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2013 officers and board of directors following yesterday's election by the general membership at the Kanoa Resort Hotel in Susupe. Sablan, elected in absentia, will be taking over the post of Chamber president currently held by Douglas Brennan of Microl Corp.

Christopher A. Concepcion, inside sales representative-Saipan/Palau of Delta Air Lines, is the incoming vice president.

"Priority would be to stimulate economic activities, and make sure that businesses are being profitable in the CNMI, work with the government so that regulations are working in our favor," Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune* at the Chamber meeting.

Vincent J. Seman, in-house counsel for Century Insurance Co. Ltd and affiliated companies, was elected treasurer. He is currently the Chamber's vice president.

Nola Hix, services and solutions executive for Xerox Corp. on Saipan, will serve as Chamber secretary.

The three elected board of directors members were Kevin McCale, account executive-business sales at Docomo Pacific; Greg Moretti, executive director of the non-profit scientific research Pacific Marine Resources Institute and an adjunct faculty member at Northern Marianas College; and Rosemond B. Santos, president and owner of Blue Continent Communications Inc. doing business as KKMP Radio Station.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1976, is the largest private business organization in the CNMI with 170 members.

Arctic Circle Air

Tony Pellegrino and Paul Zak of Arctic Circle Air were guest speakers at yesterday's Chamber general membership meeting.

They updated the Chamber members and guests about the company, particularly Monday's start of offering the transportation of agricultural produce and other goods within the CNMI and to Guam.

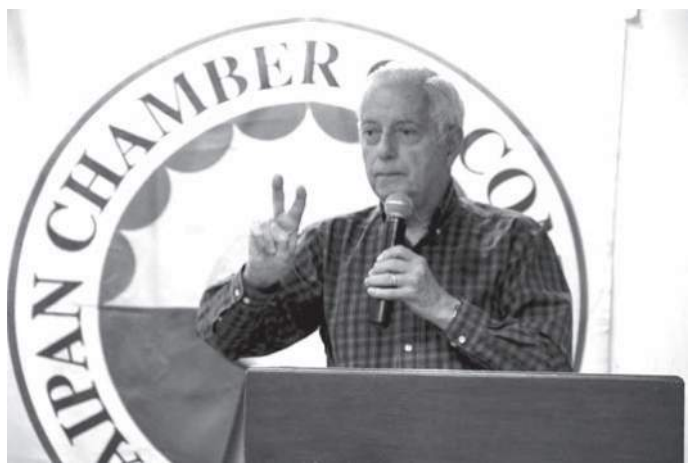
Zak said they now have the ability to offer on-demand cargo service.

Pellegrino said passengers can also charter flights.

"As customers, tell us you want 200 lbs [transported], you want 500 lbs, we consolidate everything then we leave. It's not like we will leave at 9am [scheduled]," Zak said.

He said the company has a customer on Monday, for example, whose cargo will be flown to Rota. Zak said they are now making arrangements with Rota customers to fly vegetables to Guam. Then they're going to make arrangements with a customer to fly his products from Guam to Saipan.

"To develop the actual routing, the customer is going to tell us that. We don't have a fixed schedule that we have to meet. We will adapt where the customers are," Zak told *Saipan Tribune.*



Tony Pellegrino of Arctic Circle Air was one of the guest speakers at yesterday's Chamber general membership meeting.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Arctic Circle Air has been created to haul cargo between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota then on to Guam. The company earlier said the Britten-Norman aircraft can carry 2,500 lbs of cargo.

Paul Zak of Arctic Circle give Saipan Chamber of Commerce members an update on the company, particularly Monday's start of offering the transportation of agricultural produce and other goods within the CNMI and to Guam.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS PTA sets campus cleanup

Calling all Mighty Dolphin parents, legal guardians, and community members! There will be a PTA Campus Cleanup this Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012, starting at 7:30am. Please come and help out as we beautify the campus for our children. We will be doing grounds keeping and painting. If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Red Cross training set

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct health and safety training in Adult First Aid/CPR/AED on Nov. 17, from 8am to 1pm. To register or for more information about the courses offered, contact the NMI Chapter at 670-234-3459. ***(ARC)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join us for our general meeting on Nov. 16, 2012, at the Beach Road Pavilion in Garapan, at 7pm. Call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665 for more information. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ErJiangLi Guan Manglona Petitioner,	)	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0448**
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
Nobert King Manglona Respondent.	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **PMB 1266 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950** as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LIANGXIANG L. HEMLEY Petitioner,	)	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0080**
vs.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
JAMESON P. HEMLEY Respondent.	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is **P.O. Box 502592** as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of September, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of October 18, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. None

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.
1. Update on the proposed local bill for Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Businesses (Pokers)

E. New Business
1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Pua Hinano dance group returns from Guam fair

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 22-member Pua Hinano of the Te Kanahau Nui Dance School of Saipan represents the CNMI at the 25th Guam Micronesia Island Fair on Oct. 5-7, 2012.

The 22 members of the Pua Hinano of the Te Kanahau Nui Dance School of Saipan just returned from a trip to Guam to represent the CNMI at the 25th Guam Micronesia Island Fair on Oct. 5-7, 2012.

Since late part of July 2012, the group worked to raise close $7,000 to cover the cost for their roundtrip tickets to Guam, hotel rooms, transportation, per diem for food, and costumes.

"On behalf of dance instructor Irma Mercado and members of the dance school, thank you very much for your kind generosity and support and helping our group make our goal to represent the CNMI at the 25th Guam Micronesia Island Fair," the group said in a statement yesterday.

In appreciation for all the support, sponsors, families, and friends, the Pua Hinano of the TKN will be putting on a one-hour show at the Garapan Street Market today, Nov. 8, 2012.

The group would not have made this trip without the following sponsors and supporters: Saipan DCCA, Guam Visitors Bureau, Galaide Group LLC (Guam), Bank of Saipan, Trench Tech, Guam Medical Transport, Pacific Airport Services, Blue Sky Market, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Happy Market, Jacem Printing Co., Shakir Realty and Insurance, Jeri Tomokane and family, House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Rep. Stanley Torres, Rep. Froilon Tenorio, Paz Calvo, Vicky Benavente, Tony and Tona Dela Rosa (Guam), Mike and Nora Santos (Guam), Larry and Elizabeth Olouachel, Ray and Alice Tabilisma, Dee Clayton, Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, Nel Moses and family, Andrew and Daisy Sablan, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Bachani, Takahiro and Akiko Noguchi, Andrea Carr, and parents of dance members. ***(PR)***

Pohnpei gets 5 new schools worth $12.7M

The Sapalap School turnover ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In September, three new elementary schools were dedicated in Pohnpei. The schools were Sapalap, Saladak, and Nett. The combined cost of these three new schools was just over $6 million. In October, two more elementary schools were dedicated in Kosrae at a cost of $6.7 million. These two schools are located in Lelu and Utwe. The funding for the school projects came from U.S. Compact funds.

On Pohnpei, the three schools were originally scheduled to be completed in one year, but due to changes required to improve the sites, the projects took an additional eight months. The schools in Kosrae took much longer to complete as the original contractors were unable to complete the project. The Kosrae school projects began in 2007 but were delayed until Black Micro Corp. was awarded a new contract and completed the job within 12 months.

At all of the ceremonies, dignitaries attending the dedications discussed the value of the community and parents. Ambassador Doria Rosen expressed her feelings that the building alone does not make the school successful. Rather, the community, parents, teachers, administrators, and the students all contribute to the mechanism of a good education delivery system.

Each of the school dedications were followed by traditional ceremonies to mark the communities' excitement about the opening of the new schools. ***(U.S. Embassy)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to our dearest mother and grandmother, Ana Marie SN. Tuigamala! May God bless you with many, many more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings come from Ben, Mill, Liana, and Vinna.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 25th birthday shoutout to Anthony and Hernis Laniyo! Drink it up and enjoy! May God bless you both and may you have many more birthdays to come! We love you both! Love always, your wifeys and boys.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 8, 2000

NMC beefs up computer literacy programs

The Northern Marianas College this month is introducing short-term computer literacy courses in efforts to better acquaint the community with latest computer applications and programs that would keep them at par with the new demands in the information age. The college will be offering starting tomorrow a session on the basics of Excel, the Microsoft spreadsheet program, which would tackle the essentials in using worksheets, formulas for addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and percentages and how to link data to Microsoft Word documents. NMC's Community Programs Department is also set to hold classes on Microsoft Money-Balancing Accounts.

Youth Congress pledges help to bring back scholarships

Realizing the need to bring back scholarship programs that would encourage part time students at the Northern Marianas College to secure a degree, the 3rd CNMI Youth Congress disclosed plans to step in and assist government leaders create viable solutions to the long-standing problem. Youth Congress Speaker Angel A. Demapan is proposing to create a special committee that would be solely tasked to look into other means to generate funding that would support non-full time students earning college credits at CNMI's lone postsecondary institution. The fresh move, according to Mr. Demapan, is part of the organization's contribution in boosting the education system for the students of the Northern Marianas.

Nov. 8, 2001

Value-added tax proposed amid crisis

The Division of Solid Waste Management is proposing the implementation of a value added tax, which will be assessed on all consumer products, to defray funding deficits for the eventual closure of the Puerto Rico Dumpsite. According to Solid Waste Program Manager Alberta Carpenter, funding constraint has impaired the immediate closure of the dumpsite. She said the implemented tipping fees will partially subsidize the cost of solid waste operations at the new landfill. However, these funds won't be enough to cover the cost as Capital Improvement Project funds are expected to run out soon.

OPA finalizing audit on lobbyists

The Office of the Public Auditor is already finalizing its preliminary draft on the lobbying group survey, which it expects to release in the next few days. The survey, which is related to the audit being conducted by the OPA on the lobby groups that were hired by the CNMI in Washington DC, compiles all available data relating to this issue. "There is an audit underway. In the interim, while the audit is being finalized, the OPA is providing the senators with preliminary survey information on the matter," Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said.

Nov. 8, 2002

Govt keeps track of CIP programs

Special Assistant for CIP Management Charles Jordan yesterday visited government offices on Saipan to check on the agencies' needs with regards to Capital Improvement Projects. Jordan, along with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, inspected several agencies to identify areas and facilities that need improvements and repairs. The inspection is part of the Babauta Administration's efforts to study pending and proposed improvement projects, as well as determine which of these needs immediate attention and funding.

CDA gets go-signal to issue $40M bond

The Marianas Public Lands Authority Board of Directors adopted yesterday a resolution authorizing the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue a $40 million bond for the settlement of outstanding land claims against the CNMI. The board made the go-signal during its special board meeting yesterday. Under the draft, the MPLA noted that the $40 million is a public debt authorized by Public Law 13-17, and will be used only for the purpose of financing the retirement of land claims. The agency also said that it will only be up to $40 million, inclusive of any commission or fee. Under the law, the public debt is only authorized with an interest not exceeding 7 percent per year-simple interest on the principal amount remaining outstanding and unpaid, and with repayment terms not exceeding 20 years for payment in full of principal and interest.

ALL SAINTS' DAY AT OLD MALL
Estelita Relata, sister of murdered bartender Emerita Relata Romero, offered flowers and prayers for Romero last Nov. 1, All Saints' Day, at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque where the victim was killed in February 2012. Other photo shows the victim's relatives, former coworkers, and friends visiting the site. Romero's murder remains unsolved.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI gets $119.85M ARRA funds; 45 pct. of projects yet to be completed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From 2009 through Sept. 30 this year, the CNMI was awarded over $119.85 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant funding but it has yet to spend $21 million and complete 26 or 45 percent of 58 projects lined up. These are latest data from federal tracking agency recovery.gov.

ARRA money was a major factor in the CNMI's economic growth in 2010 alone based on U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis data on gross domestic product that showed a 2.3-percent increase. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said it was in 2010 when ARRA really hit the ground.

If the CNMI fails to complete all ARRA-funded projects, it could end up losing millions of dollars, barely 10 months before the federal government starts reclaiming unused funds.

Recovery.gov data shows that as of Sept. 30, which was updated on Oct. 30, the CNMI completed 32 or 55 percent of ARRA-funded projects worth more than $67 million.

Twelve projects worth more than $29 million is "more than 50 percent completed" and 11 projects amounting to $18 million are "less than 50 percent completed."

Three projects that could be worth over $4.5 million have not even started.

CNMI officials said ARRA has been a tremendous help to the economy, at a time when annual revenue is only a little over $100 million the past few years.

The Obama administration's ARRA program was meant to jumpstart the economy, create and save jobs.

Of the $119 million in ARRA funds awarded to the CNMI, more than $48 million went to education, almost $39 million to energy/environment projects, and over $15 million for transportation projects. The rest were divided among projects or programs related to infrastructure, public safety, housing, family, health, and job training.

Inos: CNMI govt hits $102M target but…

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov Eloy S. Inos said the government hit its target revenue of $102 million in fiscal year 2012 but its actual expenditures—mainly on utilities and medical referrals—once again exceeded the revenue that came in.

Inos said the administration is still preparing its financial report through the end of fiscal year 2012 on Sept. 30 so specific figures are still not available. The report is due by the end of December. However, these expenses exceeded revenue by about a million, he said.

"We were on track on the revenue side. On expenditures, I think we're within target with probably one or two exemptions," he told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to utilities and medical referral expenditures. Inos oversees government finances.

The fiscal 2013 target revenue available for operations went up to $114 million, restoring 80 work hours every payroll.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Century Tours, Saipan

Opening Date: November 6, 2012 **Position:** Operations Clerk (3)
Closing Date: November 13, 2012 **Salary:** $5.55 per hour

Duties: Performs all and/or any combination of following clerical duties requiring knowledge of systems or procedures: operates office machines, such as desktop computers, laptops, typewriter, adding, calculating, and duplicating machines; enters room bookings and room report for bookings into computer and forwards the information to Shanghai office via email and telephone; confirms and reconfirms hotel bookings with Shanghai office; inform Tour Guides of guests bus number assignments; prepare correspondence, bills, statements, receipts, or other documents, copying information from one record to another; photocopies documents, using photocopier; answers correspondence and emails, and prepares mail and email to Shanghai office; obtains travel and hotel accommodations for guests; prepares tour schedules and itineraries, and compiles reports of transactions; obtains confirmation of travel and lodging space and rate information; prepares guests tour booklet, copy of tour itinerary, written lodging confirmations and tour suggestions. answers guests and Shanghai office inquiries concerning tour routes, sightseeing schedules, fares and fees, and accommodations; prepare activity forms for Tour Guides; prepare key envelopes for incoming guests; sorts and files records; copies data and compiles records and reports; finalize guests name list to hotels; make bus reservations; Answers telephone, conveys messages, and runs errands; reply to Shanghai office emails, and perform other related duties assigned or as required.

Position Requirements: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience in tour operation, sales or service related experience; must be able to speak, read, and understand Mandarin; excellent communication, organizational, and sales skills preferred; must valid driver's license with clean driving record; must be willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the Front Office of Century Tours, located at the Kanoa Resort, Saipan, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DOF/REV-023

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO PROVIDE PRINTING SERVICES FOR ALL TAX FORMS FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT IS DUE NO LATER THAN **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, NOVEMBER 13, 2012** AND ADDRESSED TO MS. KIT DICKINSON OR MRS. LORNA SABLAN AT TELEPHONE NUMBER (670) 664-1098 OR BY FAX TO (670) 664-1015.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

KANOA RESORT SAIPAN
is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions :

Position (1) SOUS CHEF
Duties: Supervises and coordinates activities of COOKS and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking stuff. Observes workers engaged in preparing, portioning and garnishing foods to ensure that methods of cooking and garnishing foods to ensure that methods of cooking and garnishing and sizes of portions are prescribed. Gives instructions to cooking personnel in fine points of cooking. Cooks and carves meats and prepare dishes, such as sauces, during rush periods and for banquet and other social functions. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absence of Executive Chef.

Qualifications: Ability to direct and participate in the preparation and cooking of food. Must be able to work variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends. Five (5) years work experience as a Sous Chef is required and preferably in the hospitality industry.

Position (1) GUEST SERVICE AGENT
Duties: Greets, registers and assigns rooms to guest. Issues room key and escort instructions to Bellhop/Bellman. Date stamps, sorts and racks incoming mail and messages. Transmit and receives messages, using telephone or telephone switchboard. Answers inquiries pertaining to hotel services, registrations of guests, and shopping, dinning, entertainment and travel directions. Keeps records of room availability and guests accounts manually or using computer. Computes bills, collects payment and make changes for guest. Makes and confirms reservations. May post charges, such as room, food, liquor or telephone to ledger, manually or using computer. May make restaurant, transportation or entertainment reservation and arrange for tours. May deposit guests valuables in hotel safe or safe deposit box. Responsible in providing guest fast, friendly and efficient service.

Qualifications: Must have knowledge in Microsoft Office Applications and Fidelio System. Must have outstanding ability to perform several tasks at once. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays. Must have strong customer service and interpersonal skills. Frequent standing and walking on the job is required. Must have at least 2 years work experience as guest service and/or reservation agent. Must be of high school graduate or equivalent. Must have knowledge in foreign language and be able to speak, read and write in Japanese language or in Chinese language.

Applications can be obtained from Kanoa Resort's security office located on the Hotel's Backside. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than November 10, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is located next to Saipan World Resort
Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 265

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

China's future uncertain under its nervous regime

If you're in Beijing this week, there are some things that you may not find. Balloons or ping-pong balls, CNN on the TV in your hotel workout room, taxi windows that roll down and dissidents.

These are not random shortages. They are targets of a government crackdown aimed at preventing the slightest disruption of its 18th Communist Party Congress, which has the task of approving new leaders for the world's biggest nation.

The party is fearful of balloons and ping-pong balls because they could carry unwelcome messages. Foreign news channels might feature stories that don't fit the government narrative.

Since a passenger might roll down his cab window to throw out anti-government tracts, drivers have been told to remove the cranks. Dissidents have been arrested or exiled from the capital so they can't spread subversive complaints.

Authoritarian regimes may look eternal and impregnable, but this one seems to be feeling fragile. One big reason is that the party is about to install new leadership—with President Hu Jintao, the chief leader for the past decade, expected to give way to Vice President Xi Jinping.

Malcontents and skeptics will not be allowed to intrude on the party's business. But the leaders' tightening control leaves no doubt how much they fear their own people.

Another reason for the nerves lies in the unseemly internal turmoil that came into view earlier this year. One party heavyweight, Bo Xilai, was ensnared in a lurid scandal that included charges of corruption as well as the conviction of his wife for the fatal poisoning of a British business associate. He awaits trial, but the episode was embarrassing to the party, not to mention possibly destabilizing.

The hierarchy is also anxious about the spread of protests by citizens fed up with graft, cronyism and abuse of power. The rulers in Beijing watched the Arab Spring bring down fellow autocrats in the Middle East, and they do not intend to let anything similar happen at home.

They have succeeded in maintaining their monopoly on political power through an economic liberalization that brought about the transformation of China from poor and backward to an economic powerhouse—while making a mockery of the official communist ideology.

Though that stunning achievement has helped the party retain power in the past, it is bound to undermine the regime in time. A growing middle class is generally a harbinger of democratic change—as it was in South Korea and Taiwan. A population enjoying rising living standards, growing contact with the outside world and new means of expressing opinions, through websites and social media, will not be so easy to repress.

The new leaders who emerge from the party congress are expected to be in charge of China for the next 10 years. But if they were truly confident of their durability, they wouldn't be scared of balloons.

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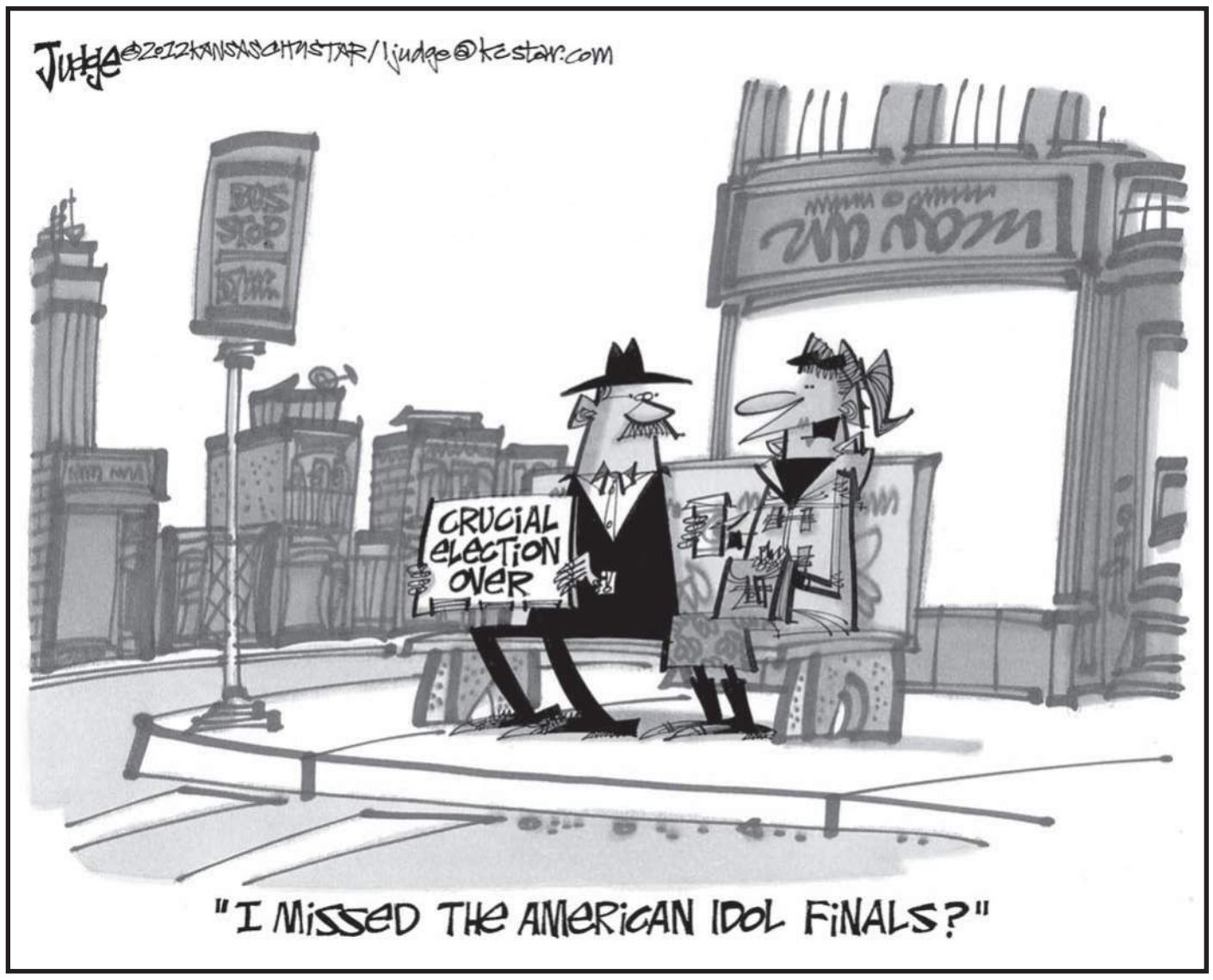


Ge Ming, Fa Zhan, Gai Shan

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The French have their *liberte, egalite, fraternite.* We Americans pride ourselves with, "*We the People,"* and the much-quoted Abe Lincoln triune formula of "government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Beijing's socialism with the Zhongguo face uses the terms "Revolution, Development, Reform," probably more colorful in the Zhongwen characters than the English translation or in our limited Pinyin (with the help of a pda) on the title. In any case, President Hu Jintao last year used the terms to describe the CPC's version of socialism with Chinese characteristics in his speech at the 90th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of China.

Today in Beijing at the Great Hall of the People, the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China begins. Age limits restrict seven of the nine members of the Politburo Standing Committee from further service. This includes current CPC General Secretary Hu Jintao and the amiable Premier Wen Jiabao. The Congress of 2,270 delegates from 40 constituencies elects a Central Committee, which in turn elects the nation's head officers.

Expected to succeed Hu Jintao is Xi Jinping, and Wen Jiabao, Li Keqiang. They will lead a Politburo returning to its former seven-member makeup that grew into nine in 2002 when public security and propaganda portfolios were added. The portfolios return to the Central Committee.

(For those who wish to follow-up developments, the membership of the Politburo Standing Committee, along with Xi Jinping as General Secretary and Li Keqiang as Premier of the State Council, is expected to include Yu Zhengsheng as Chairman of the National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang as Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Li Yuanchao as Secretariat Secretary and Vice President, Wang Qishan as First Vice Premier, and Wang Yang as Secretary of the Central Commission for Disciplinary Inspection.)

In the recently concluded elections in the CNMI and the United States, both are dependent on a "macho" leadership style. Irrespective of gender, the same direct and assertive style is held true for Britain's late Thatcher, Oz' Girard, Germany's Merkel, and our Hillary swigging brew straight from the bottle.

A culture adept at indirection, China takes a different approach. Two movies are very telling about how the "propaganda" arm of the party handles its image. First, there was Zhang Yimou's celebrated film *Hero*, with Jet Li in the lead role. The story revolves around the lead character out to assassinate Zhi Huangdi of the Qin dynasty, not particularly known for suave imperial manners but did manage to unite China from warring factions. The hero finally meets the emperor but instead of killing him, he decides that the unifying emperor has a more important fate than his own, and goes out of the palace to face a barrage of arrows.

The movie may be seen as the picture of a strong leader like Mao Zedong who was at the time of the movie getting maligned as the cause of all of China's economic woes and miseries. "Maybe," the movie was saying, "but he unified China, and we must be thankful." Mao's image remains in all the Renminbi paper currencies from the 1¥ to the 100¥, and his grandfatherly picture remains at the gate of the Forbidden City in Beijing fronting the Tiananmen Square.

Two years ago, we got *Confucius*, about the revered guru of China whose teachings are the basis for the civil service exams during the Ming and Qing dynasties. The movie depicts a Kung Fu Zi who disdained war, though the sovereign relied on him to provide war strategy, remained humble and faithful even to those ingrates he served who turned against him, promoted harmony and unity at every turn, went to his calligraphic brush rather than the sword to exonerate himself by gathering the nation's classics, and using the image of the family in his pedagogy as the metaphor for social relations.

After the global recession of 2007, China emerged as an economic giant. The militaristic right (ideological Marxists and unreformed imperial warriors) in its rank wanted to take a belligerent relationship to a weakened West. Hu Jintao and *xiao panda* Wen Jiabao, not unlike Confucius, stayed with the traditional Chinese policy of balance and harmony, and its foreign policy has stayed that way, even with the ill-conceived Japanese encroachment on China's sovereign islands of Diaoyou.

At the National People's Congress come March 2013, we will watch a historic handover of power, from the "paramount leader" style of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaopeng reformed to a conciliatory "collective" leadership mode that has been observed by shared power within the Politburo since 2002. After this week, Xi Yinping and Li Kejiang will make seven men (yes, China's politics remains predominantly male) form a new collective leadership to guide a new nation to its new role in the world.

Not unhappily, Chinese men are now encouraged by a new popular song not to be ashamed to show emotion and even cry in public *(ku ba, ku ba, ku ba)*. A soft touch, won't you say? *Gan bei!*

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

So many planets, so few telescopes

By MICHAEL LEMONICK
Los Angeles Times

Michael D. Lemonick is a senior writer at Climate Central and the author of Mirror Earth. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Over the last few weeks, astronomers announced not one but two extraordinary discoveries in the ongoing search for planets orbiting stars beyond the sun. The first was a world about the size of Neptune, 5,000 light-years away, whirling around in a solar system with four stars. It's something like Luke Skywalker's home world of Tatooine in the "Star Wars" movies, except that fictional planet sported only two suns.

The second was an Earth-size planet right next door in the Alpha Centauri system—three stars that orbit one another not thousands or hundreds but a mere four light-years from our solar system. That makes it not just the nearest "new" planet ever found but the nearest that could be found. (It isn't for nothing that so many sci-fi authors—although not George Lucas—have set their tales in the Alpha Centauri system.) With a surface temperature of 2,000 degrees or so, this planet's surface is probably molten, but its presence implies, tantalizingly, that there could be more.

All of this is exciting and wonderful, but it's a far cry from the discoveries astronomers thought they would be making by now. Back in the mid-1990s, when the first "exoplanets" (extrasolar planets) were found in distant star systems, NASA talked boldly about the new generation of powerful telescopes it was planning to build, in large part to hunt for alien worlds, especially those in balmy, life-friendly orbits.

By the early 2000s, something called the Space Interferometry Mission, or SIM, was going to measure the nearly imperceptible side-to-side wobbles caused by the gravity of Earth-size planets, tugging their stars first one way, then the other as they orbited. By 2007, the original version of the James Webb Space Telescope, designed to be bigger and more powerful than the Webb scope now under construction, was supposed to be taking direct images of giant planets, along with other astronomical duties. And by 2020 or so, the Terrestrial Planet Finder, or TPF, would be imaging true Earth "twins," scanning their atmospheres for gases that might betray biological activity.

As of today, however, SIM has been canceled; the smaller, less powerful Webb will launch by 2018 perhaps; and the TPF has been put on the back burner, maybe permanently. These disappointments have partly to do with NASA's ever-shrinking science budget, but SIM and TPF were also torpedoed by internal squabbling among scientists who disagreed about the best designs and about whether SIM was vital or unnecessary.

Yet even without the scopes they hoped for, astronomers are finding planets by the carload, using the Kepler space telescope, launched in 2009, and even small, ground-based instruments. Rather than wait for NASA to come through with expensive new toys, innovators like Harvard University's David Charbonneau; William J. Borucki of the NASA Ames Research Center in the Bay Area; and Michel Mayor at the Geneva Observatory in Switzerland kept pushing existing the science to its limits, and then pushing again.

Borucki, for example, lobbied for more than a decade to have NASA approve his Kepler mission, which is designed to look for the faint dip in light that occurs when an exoplanet passes in front of its star. It was a simpler and cheaper planet discovery method than SIM and the rest, but the agency kept finding fault with his proposal, so he answered their objections and re-proposed it five times. Since its launch, Kepler has found more than 2,000 probable planets.

Charbonneau chose to look for dips in starlight as well, but from the ground; his innovation was to look at dim red stars, figuring a dip in light would be easier to spot if the star was dimmer to begin with. And Mayor took his 1990s-era instruments, which look for subtle changes in a star's color as a planet yanks it back and forth during the planet's orbit, and refined them beyond what anyone thought was technologically possible. It was his team that found the Alpha Centauri planet.

The result: While the telescope makers dithered, the roster of planets has exploded, from just one in 1995 to 800 known alien worlds, and an additional 2,300—provisionally identified by Kepler—that are waiting to be confirmed by further observations. Some of these provisional planets come from an unlikely source: Citizen scientists on the website planethunters.org, scouring Kepler spacecraft data, were the ones who flagged the new four-star planet in Kepler's database, after the professional scientists had missed it.

This sort of scrappy ingenuity has kept the field of exoplanetology hopping with new discoveries, astonishing even the most seasoned scientists with the endless surprises the cosmos seems to hold. But just imagine the discoveries that would be happening with a NASA science budget that could keep up with astronomers' dreams.

The other melting pot

By ARIEL DORFMAN
Los Angeles Times

Ariel Dorfman is the author of Death and the Maiden. His latest book is Feeding on Dreams: Confessions of an Unrepentant Exile. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

There is a store I visit from time to time for convenience's sake, or to indulge in nostalgia, where I can find all of Latin America on display.

Under the roof of this one vast supermarket I savor the presence of the continent where I was born; I go back, so to speak, to my own plural origins.

On one shelf: Nobleza Gaucha, the yerba mate my Argentine parents used to sip every morning in their New York exile—my mother with sugar, my father in its more bitter form. Even to contemplate the bag that this herb comes in allows me to recall how anxiously mi mama y mi papa awaited shipments from the authoritarian Buenos Aires they had escaped in the '40s.

A bit farther along in the store, I come upon leche condensada en una lata, the sort I would sip from a can on adolescent camping trips in the mountains of Chile, where my family moved when I was 12. And nearby, a tin of Nido, the powdered milk my wife Angelica and I first fed our son Rodrigo as a baby, almost half a century ago in Santiago. Or Nesquik para ninos, the chocolate we relied on to sweeten the existence of our younger son, Joaquin, when he accompanied us back to Chile after many years of exile from Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship.

Origins, however, are never merely personal but deeply collective, and especially so for Latin Americans such as myself, who feel an entranable fellowship with those from other unfortunate countries of our region. A stubborn history of thwarted dreams has led to a shared sense of purpose and sorrow, hope and resilience that joins us all emotionally, beyond geographic destiny or national boundaries.

To stroll up and down the aisles of that grocery store is to reconnect with the people and the lands and the taste buds of those brothers and sisters, and to partake, however vicariously, in meals being planned and prepared at that very moment in millions and millions of homes everywhere in the hemisphere.

There is canela from Peru and queso crema from Costa Rica and cafe torrado e moido (O sabor do campo na sua casa) from Brazil. There is coconut juice from the Caribbean and frijoles of every possible and impossible variety and maiz tostado from Mexico and bunches of fresh apio (celery) from the Dominican Republic (they look like tiny twisted idols) and hierbas medicinales para infusiones from who knows where, and albahaca and ajonjoli and linaza and yuca and malanga and chicharrones de cerdo and chicharrones de harina.

If you were to go to Sao Paolo or Caracas or Quito, if you were to try to shop for this assortment of staples and delicacies in San Salvador or La Paz or Bogota, if you were to ask in any major or minor city of Latin America where you might be able to pick your way through such a plethora of culinary choices in one location, you would be told that a place like that does not exist anywhere in that country. There is no shop in Rio de Janeiro, for instance, that next to an array of carioca fare would allow you to select among 18 multiplicities of chile peppers and buy Tampico punch and sample casabe bread.

Where it does exist is in Durham, N.C., where our family settled after many decades of wandering. It exists less than half a mile from our house, sporting a name that cleverly works in Spanish and English and Portuguese. Who would have thought that in a small city (population 233,252) in the Southern United States there could be a greater representation of all of Latin America than in Rio, with its 6.5 million inhabitants, or in Ciudad de Mexico with its 20 million.

The reality of a store like the one my wife and I visit in Durham (and there are more like it, from Massachusetts to South Carolina, from Chicago to L.A.) resoundingly proves—if further proof was really needed—that the continent of Benito Juarez and Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Eva Peron can no longer be understood to stop at the Rio Grande but extends far into the gringo North.

The food that hails me at that Latino megamarket is not, of course, something you just sniff and peel, cook and devour. Hands reach for the potatoes that originated thousands of years ago in the Andean highlands; mouths water for the pineapple that the conquistadors did not know how to describe; bodies tremble at the thought of using their tongues, Proust-like, to return to a childhood home most of them will never see again. Beyond hands, mouths and bodies there flourishes a cosmic pinata of stories like mine, of escaping the native land, of alighting elsewhere, of crossing frontiers legally or surreptitiously, of border guards and guardian angels, of fighting to keep in touch with the vast pueblo latinoamericano left behind, of memories of hunger and repression and also of solidaridad and vivid dreams.

A woman from Honduras piles onto her cart a ton of bananas that are the color of a red sunset and that, though already well on their way to decomposing, will be perfect, she assures me, with tomatillos and pinto frijoles. A couple from Colombia (I detect the soft specificity of excellent Spanish from Bogota) discuss whether to experiment and add to their ajiaco some Mexican serrano peppers (shining green as they curve under the neon light). The husband says that's fine, as long as she doesn't forget to mix in the guascas herb they have just bought and that he first relished when he was an infant. Inside each of them, as inside me and my Angelica, there is a tale of heartbreak and heart warmth, of hearths orphaned back home and hearths rekindled in our new dwellings.

Where else could these shoppers (and so many other unrecognized ambassadors from every country and ethnicity of the Americas) meet in such an ordinary way, chatting in every conceivable Spanish accent (some murmur in indigenous tongues I cannot recognize) next to this Chilean American born in Argentina, as if nothing could be more natural?

Perhaps it makes sense for Durham to add a sign to the many greetings it posts to welcome visitors when they enter the city from the highway or descend from a bus or a train. Next to the emblematic "Durham, City of Medicine," or the town flaunted as the home to the Durham Bulls or Duke University's Blue Devils, is also one that ushers you (it's on the website) into "Durham, where great things happen."

Great things do happen here.

So maybe it is finally time to write another greeting, in glorious Spanish, for all the world to see, including inhabitants of the 21 republics to our south, maybe it is time to welcome our visitors this way:

Bienvenidos a Durham, donde America Latina se vuelve a encontrar.

Where Latin America meets again.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Si yu'us ma'ase and thank you for your support

My dearest families, friends, and supporters: I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all of you who have continued to stand by me during my re-election to the Senate. It has been a great privilege to have served you and I will forever be grateful.

You have been a great inspiration to me and there are no words that can fully express my sentiments of appreciation for all your hard work, commitment and dedication in my re-election. I, along with my wife, Mary, and children are indeed very grateful and humbled by your support.

Please join me in congratulating our good Rep. Ray Yumul for his victory to the Senate as well as the other candidates and wish them well as they undertake the many challenges that the CNMI is presently facing.

Election is now over, let us join hands and move forward in the best interest of our people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sen. Luis Palacios Crisostimo "Angando"
Via email

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

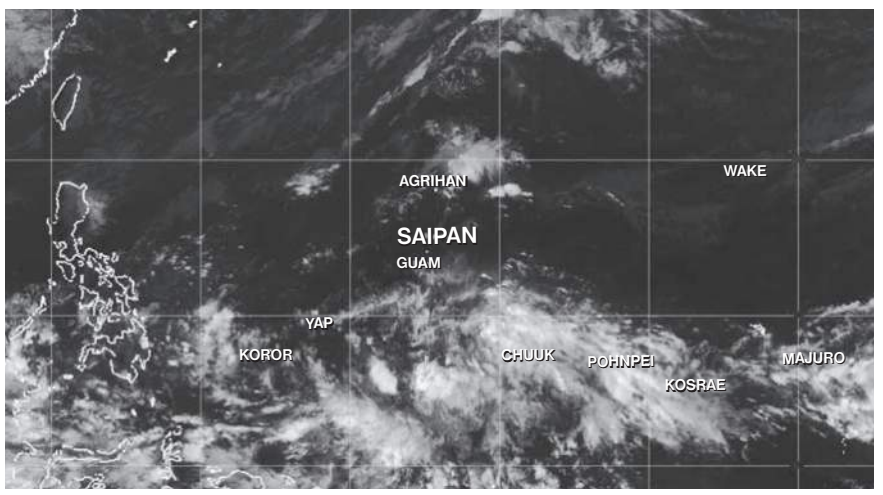
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲53	▼31
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼50
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼54
New York	Rain	▲40	▼36
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼39
Pusan	Cloudy	▲65	▼49
Rome	Sunny	▲64	▼50
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼38
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼38
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼51
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲43	▼38

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from 25N180 to 21N171E then continues to the west as a shear line to end near 19N146E. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of the cold front and up to 100 miles north of the shear line. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found at the end of the shear line near the far Northern Marianas within 90 miles of 20N148E. Another cold front extends southwestward from 25N146E to 18N136E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Patchy clouds light showers and a few thunderstorms are present along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary. An old shear line stretches westward from 20N180 to 15N170E to 15N160E to end east of the CNMI at 17N150E. Patchy clouds and light showers are present along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. A monsoon trough extends eastward from 5N130E to a weak circulation centered near Koror at 6N133E then continues eastward to another circulation centered southwest of Chuuk at 6N149E then turns to the southeast to end at EQ155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring across Palau, Yap and Chuuk between the equator and 11N from 130E to 162E. Converging trade winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the southern Marshall Islands between 2N and 8N from 168E to the date line including Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
3:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:16 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:17 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:31 AM	1:11 PM
Friday	1:23 AM	1:53 PM
Saturday	2:17 AM	2:36 PM
Sunday	3:13 AM	3:22 PM
Monday	4:11 AM	4:11 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCT. 27, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)			
UZ608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:10pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	11:25pm	7:55am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

The economy Obama faces: Slow but gaining steadily

WASHINGTON (AP)—Some reward.

Here's the assignment President Barack Obama has won with his re-election: Improve an economy burdened by high unemployment, stagnant pay, a European financial crisis, slowing global growth and U.S. companies still too anxious to expand much.

And, oh yes, an economy that risks sinking into another recession if Congress can't reach a budget deal to avert tax increases and deep spending cuts starting in January.

Yet the outlook isn't all grim. Signs suggest that the next four years will coincide with a vastly healthier economy than the previous four, which overlapped the Great Recession.

Obama has said he would help create jobs by preserving low income tax rates for all except high-income Americans, spending more on public works and giving targeted tax breaks to businesses.

The jobs picture has already been improving gradually. Employers added a solid 171,000 jobs in October. Hiring was also stronger in August and September than first thought.

Cheaper gas and rising home prices have given Americans the confidence to spend slightly more. Retailers, auto dealers and manufacturers have been benefiting.

That said, most economists predict the improvement will remain steady but slow. The unemployment rate is 7.9 percent. Obama was re-elected Tuesday night with the highest unemployment rate for any incumbent president since Franklin Roosevelt.

◀ In this Oct. 24, 2012, file photo, President Barack Obama speaks at a campaign event at City Park in Denver. The economy President Obama will face over the next four years remains slow and at risk, but signs suggest that the next four years will coincide with a vastly healthier economy than the previous four, which overlapped the Great Recession. AP

Few think the rate will return to a normal level of 6 percent within the next two years. The Federal Reserve expects unemployment to be 7.6 percent or higher throughout 2013.

Economists surveyed last month by The Associated Press said they expected the economy to grow a lackluster 2.3 percent next year, too slight to generate strong job growth. From July through September, the economy grew at a meager 2 percent annual rate.

Part of the reason is that much of Europe has sunk into recession. Leaders there are struggling to defuse a debt crisis and save the euro currency. Europe buys 22 percent of America's exports, and U.S. companies have invested heavily there. Any slowdown in Europe dents U.S. exports and corporate profits.

And China's powerhouse economy is decelerating, slowing growth across Asia and beyond.

Most urgently, the U.S. economy will fall over a "fiscal cliff" without a budget deal by year's end. Spending cuts and tax increases of about $1.2 trillion will start to kick in. The combination of those measures would likely trigger a recession and drive unemployment up to 9 percent next year, according to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office.

Many U.S. employers are wary of expanding or hiring until that potential crisis is averted. That's why analysts have said resolving, or at least delaying, the fiscal cliff should be the most urgent economic priority for the White House.

In the longer run, analysts are more optimistic. Americans are feeling generally better about the economy. Measures of consumer confidence are at or near five-year highs.

And the main reason unemployment rose from 7.8 percent in September to 7.9 percent in October was that more people felt it was a good time to look for work. Most found jobs. Those who didn't were counted as unemployed. (The government counts people without jobs as unemployed only if they're looking for one.)

A brighter outlook among consumers is due, in part, to a steady increase in home prices after a painful six-year slump. Higher home prices can help create a "wealth effect," making homeowners feel richer and spurring more spending.

Fear of looting grips NYC as new storm threatens

NEW YORK (AP)—Richard Chan prowled around his cold, dark Staten Island home with knives and a sword to protect it from thieves, standing his ground as another East Coast storm threatened and police went through neighborhoods with loudspeakers warning people to get out.

"I still have some valuables. I just can't leave it," he said Tuesday. "I just don't want to lose my stuff to some dirtbag."

While city officials strongly encouraged storm-ravaged communities to seek higher ground before Wednesday's nor'easter, Chan was among a group who adamantly refused to leave, choosing to stick close to the belongings they have left.

Since the superstorm made landfall more than a week ago, killing 40 people in the city, more than 100 in 10 states and leaving millions without power, police said overall crime has actually gone down, not up. There are few reports of looting storm-damaged homes.

But Alex Ocasio wasn't convinced. The nursing home worker planned to ride out the latest storm in his first-floor Rockaway apartment—even after seeing cars float by his front door during Sandy.

As the water receded, men dressed in dark clothes broke down the door and were surprised to find him and other residents inside. "They tried to say they were rescue workers, then took off," he said.

He put up a handmade sign—"Have gun. Will shoot U"—outside his apartment and started using a bed frame to barricade the door. He has gas, so he keeps on the oven and boils water to stay warm at night. "It gets a little humid, but it's not bad," he said. "I'm staying. Nothing can be worse than what happened last week."

In the Rockaways, one of the worst-hit areas, nightfall brings with it fears of looting, burglaries—even armed robberies. The idyllic seaside boardwalk was in ruins, streets were covered with sand and cars scattered like trash.

"You can't go there after dark anymore," said 57-year-old construction worker William Gavin, pointing to a battered, lower-income section of his beachfront community. "It's a good way to get a gun pulled on you."

Strike hits Greece in bid to derail austerity plan

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek trade unions launched a general strike and nationwide protests on Tuesday against a new package of austerity measures, to be voted on this week, which would condemn Greece to more years of hardship in exchange for rescue loans.

Flights to and from the country stopped for three hours at the start of a 48-hour strike that closed schools, halted train and ferry services, and left Athens without public transport or taxis while state hospitals ran on emergency staff.

More than 35,000 people marched in two separate demonstrations in Athens organized by labor unions. Another 20,000 gathered to protest in the country's second largest city of Thessaloniki.

Police were on alert for potential violence, as most major anti-austerity protests over the past three years have degenerated into riots.

The demonstrations will culminate Wednesday, when lawmakers vote on a (EURO)13.5 billion ($17.3 billion) package of spending cuts and tax increases over the next two years.

The outcome of the vote is far from certain due to disagreements in the five-month-old coalition government and a reluctance among center-left lawmakers to approve yet more austerity measures. But the rejection of the savings package would leave Greece facing the threat of a default on its mountain of debt that could force it to eventually exit the euro bloc.

This is the biggest political crisis Conservative Prime Minister Antonis Samaras has faced since he formed the coalition in June. His small Democratic Left coalition partner has said it will not back the measures, while a handful of lawmakers from the third coalition party, the Socialists, are expected to vote against the austerity package.

"The government's majority is narrowing and the general strike further puts pressure on MPs to vote against the government's plans," said Martin Koehring of the Economist Intelligence Unit. "On balance, however, we expect the package to be approved by MPs because the alternative would be the government running out of cash ... and facing default and potential euro exit."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Flights canceled ahead of another Northeast storm

NEW YORK (AP)—Airlines are again looking at canceling flights in and out of the Northeast, just a week after Superstorm Sandy led to more than 23,000 cancellations in the region. This time it's a coastal storm that's leading to travel headaches. United Airlines is grounding about 500 flights between noon Wednesday and noon Thursday out of Newark Liberty, John F. Kennedy International and LaGuardia airports. Many United passengers were automatically rebooked on other flights to their destination, connecting through those hubs. Passengers can rebook themselves on other flights without paying the usual change fees.

Sandy knocks off big chunk of retail sales

NEW YORK (AP)—Superstorm Sandy knocked off nearly $4 billion of retail sales last week in the hard-hit Mid-Atlantic and Northeast region, nearly 20 percent of the usual total, according to figures released Tuesday by a retail data service. MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse said Tuesday that the region, which accounts for about 24 percent of retail sales nationwide, typically generates $18.7 billion in sales for the week ended Saturday. But revenue came in at about $15 billion. The figures exclude auto sales. "This was a significant negative event for the region," said Michael McNamara, vice president of research and analysis for SpendingPulse, which monitors all types of spending, including cash. That dragged down the nationwide sales total for the Oct. 28-Nov. 3 period. Nationwide, retailers typically generate $78 billion in sales for that particular week, but McNamara, estimates the total ended up being about $74 billion.

Nation

Obama powers to re-election despite weak economy

AP

President Barack Obama walks out of the stage with his wife Michelle and daughters Sasha and Malia at his election night party Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012, in Chicago.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama rolled to re-election Tuesday night, vanquishing former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney despite a weak economy that plagued his first term and put a crimp in the middle class dreams of millions.

"This happened because of you. Thank you" Obama tweeted to supporters in celebration.

Romney telephoned the president, then spoke to disappointed supporters in Boston. In a graceful concession, he summoned all Americans to pray for Obama and urged the night's political winners to put partisan bickering aside and "reach across the aisle" to tackle the nation's problems.

After the costliest—and arguably the nastiest—campaign in history, divided government seemed alive and well.

Democrats retained control of the Senate with surprising ease. Republicans did the same in the House, ensuring that Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, Obama's partner in unsuccessful deficit talks, would reclaim his seat at the bargaining table.

At Obama headquarters in Chicago, a huge crowd gathered waving small American flags and cheering. Supporters hugged each other, danced and pumped their fists in the air. Excited crowds also gathered in New York's Times Square, at Faneuil Hall in Boston and near the White House in Washington, drivers joyfully honking as they passed by.

With returns from 79 percent of the nation's precincts, Obama had 52.2 million, 49.5 percent. Romney had 51.7 million, 49 percent.

And the president's laserlike focus on the battleground states allowed him to run up a 303-203 margin in the competition for electoral votes, where the White House is won or lost. It took 270 to win.

The election emerged as a choice between two very different visions of government—whether it occupies a major, front-row place in American lives or is in the background as a less-obtrusive facilitator for private enterprise and entrepreneurship.

The economy was rated the top issue by about 60 percent of voters surveyed as they left their polling places. But more said former President George W. Bush bore responsibility for current circumstances than Obama did after nearly four years in office.

That boded well for the president, who had worked to turn the election into a choice between his proposals and Romney's, rather than a simple referendum on the economy during his time in the White House.

Unemployment stood at 7.9 percent on Election Day, higher than when he took office. And despite signs of progress, the economy is still struggling after the worst recession in history.

Obama captured Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, Virginia, New Hampshire, Colorado and Nevada, seven of the nine states where the rivals and their allies poured nearly $1 billion into dueling television commercials.

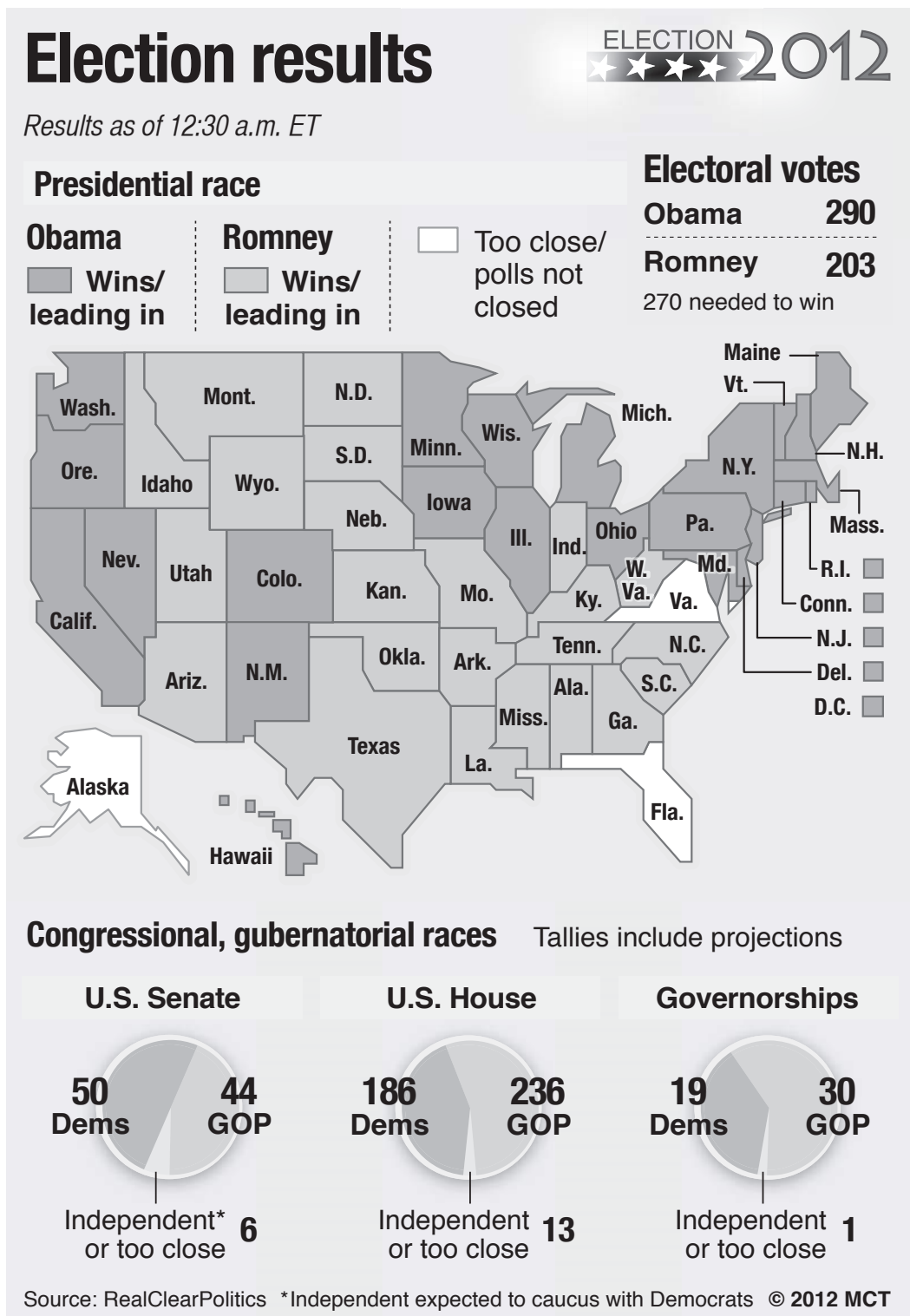
Romney won North Carolina among the battleground states. Florida was too close to call, Obama leading narrowly in a state where there were still long lines of voters at some polling places long after the appointed closing time.

Romney, who grew wealthy in business and ran the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City before entering politics, spoke only briefly to supporters, some of whom wept.

"I so wish that I had been able to fulfill your hopes to lead the country in a different direction," he said. "But the nation chose another leader and so Ann and I join with you to earnestly pray for him and for this great nation."

There was no doubt about what drove voters to one candidate or the other.

About 4 in 10 said the economy is on the mend, but more than that said it was stagnant or getting worse more than four years after the near-collapse of 2008. The survey was conducted for The Associated Press and a group of television networks.



Democrats maintain control of Senate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats secured a majority in the Senate on Tuesday, snatching Republican-held seats in Massachusetts and Indiana and turning back fierce, expensive challenges in Virginia, Ohio, Wisconsin and Connecticut to maintain the control they've held since 2007.

With a third of the Senate up for election, Republicans were undone by candidate stumbles. GOP hopefuls in Missouri and Indiana uttered clumsy statements about rape and abortion that severely damaged their chances and the party's hopes of taking over. The losses of Senate seats in Massachusetts and Indiana, combined with independent Angus King's victory in the Republican-held Maine seat, put the GOP too far down in their already uphill climb.

Democrats held open seats in Virginia, Wisconsin and New Mexico, and were leading in North Dakota shortly after midnight. The only pickup for the Republicans was Nebraska, where Deb Fischer denied former Democratic Sen. Bob Kerrey's bid to return to the Capitol.

Democrats, once on the wrong side of the political math with 23 seats at risk compared with only 10 for the GOP, suddenly looked like they could increase their numbers. They entered the night with a 53-47 edge, including two independents who caucus with them. After midnight, Democrats controlled 52 seats to the GOP's 44 with three races still outstanding and one newly elected independent, Angus King of Maine, saying he hasn't decided which party he will align with.

In charge again, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Republicans brought defeat on themselves with their preoccupation with denying President Barack Obama a second term.

"Things like this are what happens when your No. 1 goal is to defeat the president and not work to get legislation passed," Reid said. "The strategy of obstruction, gridlock and delay was soundly rejected by the American people. Now they are looking to us for solutions," he said in a separate statement.

The results were a bitter loss for the GOP and are certain to prompt questions about the promise and peril of the tea party movement that just two years ago delivered a takeover of the House to the GOP. In 2010, three tea party Senate candidates in Nevada, Delaware and Colorado cost Republicans seats they were favored to win. On Tuesday, a tea party-backed candidate in Indiana denied the GOP a seat that the party had been favored to win, while Fischer and tea party-backed Ted Cruz of Texas prevailed in their races.

Asia

Hu Jintao's legacy: A strong but strained China

AP

In this June 29, 2012 file photo, Chinese President Hu Jintao inspects People's Liberation Army soldiers at a camp in Hong Kong. As Hu steps down as head of China's Communist Party after 10 years in power, he's hearing something unusual for a Chinese leader: sharp criticism.

BEIJING (AP)—As Hu Jintao steps down as head of China's Communist Party after 10 years in power, he's hearing something unusual for a Chinese leader: sharp criticism.

In media commentaries, think-tank position papers and the less censored blogosphere, Hu's reign is being portrayed as a missed opportunity to tackle longstanding problems grown more deep-seated, from a yawning rich-poor gulf and worsening environmental degradation to stiffly authoritarian politics. One commentary has referred to the period as a "lost decade."

"We didn't realize Hu would turn out to be so conservative," said Wu Jiaxiang, a former party researcher-turned-businessman and avid blogger, summing up the disappointment of many in China's chattering classes. He dates his own disappointment with Hu to the closing of liberal-minded websites in 2005.

Some of the criticisms are designed to influence Xi Jinping, who will begin taking over from the technocratic, ultra-reserved 69-year-old Hu at a party congress that opens Thursday.

Mainstream state media, which answer to the party and dominate what most Chinese see, read and hear, have been praising the Hu era, calling it a "Glorious Decade."

It's not complete hype. Hu has presided over a run-up in domestic prosperity and global clout unseen by Chinese for centuries. When he took office, China's economy was a bit larger than Italy's; now it's No. 2 in the world. It boasts the largest numbers of Internet and mobile phone users worldwide and is the strongest magnet for foreign direct investment. Per capita income has quintupled to $5,400.

China has a seat at the top table in global decision-making and is recognized by U.S. defense planners as the only potential peer competitor. Under Hu, China held its first manned space flight and its first Olympics and rolled out other projects that have signified China's rise and brought the world's respect.

China's politics, however, remain a world apart, and Hu's critics say he and the rest of China's collective leadership have been too timid to change a system that is simmering with conflicts.

A central problem the critics point to is the growth-at-all-costs strategy that concentrates wealth among the few and disadvantages the many. Fixing it has been on the leadership's to-do list for more than a decade. In some cases, strategies Hu employed—easy bank credit, a bigger security apparatus and a reliance on huge state companies—have made matters worse, adding slowing growth and rising debt to problems like cronyism, corruption and injustice that are driving large-scale protests.

"Behind all these achievements are problems," wrote Deng Yuwen, an editor at a party newspaper, in a scathing analysis that was posted online in September but has since been expunged from Internet sites in China. Deng said Hu's failure to take meaningful steps toward political change has "resulted in the Communist Party itself facing a crisis in its legitimacy to rule."

Calls from retired party members, academics and other commentators are building for Hu's successor, Xi, to take on political reform, from making the system more transparent to moving toward democracy. The issue has stood untouched since the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement was crushed by military force. A research paper by the government-backed China Society for Economic Reform said in August that a new revolution might erupt without a fundamental shift in the current model.

Gunmen free Filipino mayor from seven months in jungle

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants in the Philippines have freed a mayor after seven months of captivity in a southern jungle where he was kept barefoot and took up smoking to ease his ordeal.

Regional army spokesman Capt. Alberto Caber says Jeffrey Lim, 36, was freed unharmed before dawn Tuesday near Zamboanga city and has been handed over to his family.

Lim had been missing since April 2 when at least 10 gunmen disguised as policemen kidnapped him while having dinner with his family near a bus terminal in his southern town of Salug in Zamboanga del Norte province.

The kidnappers were not immediately identified but authorities believe they belonged to the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, which is notorious for kidnappings for ransom and beheadings. From Salug, he was believed to have been brought by boat to the jungles of nearby Basilan Island, the Abu Sayyaf's birthplace, Caber said.

Jesus Lim, the mayor's father, told The Associated Press by telephone that an unspecified amount of money has been paid to the kidnappers, through a negotiator, to secure the release of his son, who had a tearful reunion with his wife and three children.

Aside from bruises on his feet from walking barefoot in the jungle and weight loss, the freed mayor was well and would resume his work as mayor, said Lim.

"It was the hardest seven months of his life," Lim said. "There was no TV and radio. He didn't even know how long he was away because there was no calendar."

Six men armed with M16 rifles guarded the mayor, who was made to sleep in the open on a hammock and survived mostly on rice with vinegar or sugar. On better days, fried chicken and fish were served, he said.

The gunmen constantly moved at night, blindfolding the mayor, who was made to walk barefoot. They bound his hands with masking tape after his abduction but later became lenient, even sharing cigarettes with their captive, who was not previously a smoker, his father said.

Lim's family later managed to send some items, including a notebook and a pen, through a negotiator, allowing the mayor, a civil engineer, to sketch trees. The gunmen later seized the sketches, apparently fearing the drawings might compromise their security, he said.

Ransom kidnappings are common in the southern Philippines, where an abundance of weapons, weak law enforcement and a long-running Muslim rebellion have fueled decades-long unrest. But mayors are rarely targeted and Lim's kidnapping reflected the depth of the problem in the impoverished region.

Sri Lankan chief justice faces impeachment charges

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's government has accused the country's chief justice of unexplained wealth and misuse of power in an impeachment complaint submitted to Parliament.

The complaint, included in Parliament's published agenda Tuesday, says Chief Justice Shirani Bandaranayake's actions had "plunged the Supreme Court and the office of chief justice into disrepute."

It was Parliament's first meeting since a group of government lawmakers submitted the complaint last Thursday to Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa. The inclusion of the complaint in Parliament's agenda indicates that it was accepted by the speaker, who is to form a parliamentary committee to investigate the allegations.

Opposition parties and independent analysts say the impeachment process is a politically motivated attempt to stifle the judiciary's independence as part of a government effort to concentrate power in the hands of President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The speaker is his older brother.

The complaint alleges that Bandaranayake did not disclose how she obtained 19 million rupees ($146,000) to pay for a house purchased under power of attorney for another person, and that she took control of several cases filed against the company that sold the property after removing the judges who originally heard them.

It also accuses Bandaranayake of not declaring the contents of 20 bank accounts, including four foreign currency accounts containing the equivalent of 34 million rupees ($260,000).

It also alleges that Bandaranayake misused her position to harass other judges.

If the committee determines that the complaint has merit, an impeachment motion will be voted on and the president will be informed of the outcome for further action. With the ruling coalition controlling more than two-thirds of Parliament's seats, the motion is expected to be carried easily.

The impeachment attempt follows months of conflict between Parliament, which is controlled by President Rajapaksa, and the judiciary.

The secretary of the Judicial Services Commission, Manjula Thilakaratne, was assaulted last month after he said powerful people were trying to interfere with its work and with judges, and that their families were under threat.

Opposition parties accused the government of involvement in the attack but the government denied responsibility.

Bandaranayake came under strong government criticism after she ruled that a government bill violated the constitution.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bombing kills 5 in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A police officer says a suicide bombing in northwest Pakistan has killed five people, including three policemen. Asif Iqbal says the attack Wednesday targeted the vehicle of a senior police officer outside a police station in a crowded market in the city of Peshawar. The blast killed the senior officer, two other policemen and two bystanders. The bombing also wounded 20 people. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

SKorea probing falsely certified nuclear parts

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An official says South Korea's nuclear watchdog is investigating a forgery scandal that is forcing the shutdown of two reactors and sparked fears of unprecedented power shortages this winter. Nuclear Safety and Security Commission spokeswoman Shim Eun-jung said Tuesday her agency is checking forged safety certificates and will invite civilian experts to participate. South Korea announced Monday that it found five nuclear reactors running with falsely certified components. Officials say two reactors with the highest concentration of those parts have either shut down or will do so Tuesday.

China sentences 4 Mekong smugglers to death

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court sentenced four members of a Myanmar drug gang to death Tuesday for kidnapping and killing 13 Chinese sailors last year on the Mekong River, state media said. The grisly murders on a section of Mekong flowing through the Golden Triangle region, which is notorious for drug traffickers and extortion gangs, prompted China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand to begin joint patrols there in December. Earlier reports said the Chinese victims were bound and blindfolded with adhesive tape before being shot. Their bodies were found near Chiang Rai in northern Thailand.

World

Syria envoy warns country could turn into Somalia

BEIRUT (AP)—The U.N.-Arab League envoy for Syria warned Tuesday that the country could become another Somalia—where al-Qaida-linked militants and warlords battled for decades after the ouster of a dictator—if the civil war is not ended soon.

Battles between regime forces and Syrian rebels left more than 140 people dead across Syria on Tuesday, while the brother of Syria's parliament speaker was gunned down in Damascus—the latest victim of a wave of assassinations targeting high-ranking supporters of President Bashar Assad's regime.

Among the dead were at least 13 people who died in a series of explosions in the capital Damascus, targeting impoverished districts of the capital. Dozens others were wounded, activists said.

The violence aroused new concern about the faltering diplomatic efforts to try to end the conflict, with the U.N. political chief warning that the Syria crisis risks "exploding outward" into Lebanon, Turkey and Israel.

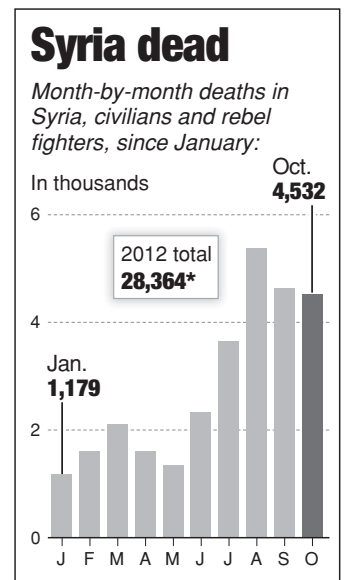
Britain's prime minister offered the latest long shot—that Assad could be allowed safe passage out of the country if that would guarantee an end to the fighting.

But there has been no sign the embattled Syrian leader is willing to step down as part of a peaceful transition to save the country. Assad has vowed to militarily crush the nearly 20-month old rebellion against his rule, and aides say a new president will only be chosen in elections scheduled for 2014.

U.N.-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, who, like his predecessor Kofi Annan has been unable to put an end to the conflict, warned the civil war could spiral into new levels of chaos.

AP

This image taken from video obtained from Shaam News Network, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows a man injured by heavy bombing from military warplanes being treated in a hospital in Houla, Syria, Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012.


Syria dead
Month-by-month deaths in Syria, civilians and rebel fighters, since January:
In thousands
Oct. 4,532
2012 total 28,364*
Jan. 1,179
6
4
2
0
J F M A M J J A S O
*An additional 6,011 were listed as having been killed from March 18, 2011, to the end of 2011
Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, Syrian Network for Human Rights
Graphic: Robert Dorrell
© 2012 MCT

"The situation in Syria is very dangerous," Brahimi said in remarks published Tuesday in the pan-Arab daily Al Hayat. "I believe that if the crisis is not solved ... there will be the danger of Somalization. It will mean the fall of the state, rise of warlords and militias."

Somalia has been mired in conflict for more than two decades after warlords overthrew the east African nation's long-time dictator in 1991 and then turned on each other. The government, backed by African Union troops, is currently battling Islamist extremist rebels linked to al-Qaida.

Syria, by comparison, has always had a strong central government, and despite losing large swathes of territory, the regime still maintains a grip on many parts of the country, including Damascus, the seat of Assad's power, where basic government services still function.

But if the regime collapses, the country could fast shatter along multiple fault lines, leading to protracted bloodshed.

The predominantly Sunni nation is a patchwork of religious and ethnic groups. The regime is led by Assad's Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, but there are also considerable Kurdish and Christian populations.

The conflict's already increasing sectarian overtones suggest any power vacuum could usher in renewed violence. Predominantly Kurdish areas in the north and Alawite majority areas in the central coastal mountains could spin away, and mixed areas—already hard hit by the conflict—could plunge further into conflict.

Dozens of opposition groups and rebel brigades have taken up the fight against Assad. But they share little common vision for the future and are divided by acute ideological differences, particularly among secularists and Islamists, and could easily turn on one another after Assad's fall.

There are also growing concerns over the injection of al-Qaida's influence into the country's civil war. Jabhat al-Nusra, a shadowy jihadi group with an al-Qaida-style ideology, has carried out numerous suicide bombings targeting regime and military facilities.

The U.S. and its Western allies have been reluctant to provide weapons to rebels fighting in Syria partly out of concern they could fall into the hands of extremists.

At the United Nations, Jeffrey D. Feltman, the U.N. undersecretary general for political affairs, warned that the escalating violence will lead Syria "to its destruction" and threatens neighboring Lebanon, Turkey and Israel.

Syrian defector says most bomber pilots grounded

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—A former Syrian air force general who was also the country's first astronaut said Tuesday that only about one-third of Syria's fighter pilots are carrying out the daily bombing raids of rebel strongholds because President Bashar Assad's regime cannot count on the loyalty of the rest.

Maj. Gen. Mohammed Fares, who defected in August and joined the main umbrella group for regime opponents, the Syrian National Council, also said the regime's combat aircraft are aging and running short of spare parts, but that Assad still has hundreds of planes at his disposal.

"He (Assad) can still continue bombing," the 61-year-old Fares said on the sidelines of a SNC conference in the Qatari capital, Doha.

Syria's civil war has been locked in a stalemate in recent months. Rebels have seized territory in heavy fighting, particularly in rural areas in northern Syria. The regime, with its ground forces stretched thin, has struck back with air raids to try to dislodge the opposition fighters. Government pilots have also bombed civilian areas in seemingly random attacks, devastating entire neighborhoods and terrorizing the population.

Syria's opposition has pleaded with its international backers for anti-aircraft missiles to defeat Assad, but the rebels' foreign backers are concerned such weapons could fall into the hands of Islamic militants fighting on the rebel side.

In recent months, the regime has increasingly used makeshift bombs consisting of hundreds of kilos of explosives stuffed into barrels. Fares said the inaccurate barrel bombs are meant to terrify the population, but are also being used because the regime is running out of ordinary bombs.

He reiterated the opposition mantra that the rebels could defeat Assad's air force if given the necessary weapons, particularly to bring down planes and helicopters.

Car bomb near Iraqi military base kills 33

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber driving a car packed with explosives detonated the vehicle near an Iraqi military base as soldiers changed shifts north of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 33 people and wounding 56, according to authorities.

The blast struck around midday as troops were leaving the base in Taji, 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of the capital, police said. Twenty-two soldiers were among the dead, and several vehicles were damaged, they said.

The casualty toll was high because the attacker blew up the car while large numbers of soldiers were walking to and from a parking area for waiting minibuses that take them to work, officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, though suicide car bombings are a favorite tactic of Sunni militant groups such as al-Qaida.

Insurgents frequently target members of the country's security forces in an effort to undermine confidence in the Shiite-led government. Although violence has ebbed in Iraq since the height of the insurgency, attacks still occur frequently.

Officials said many of the wounded were soldiers. They warned the death toll could rise further because several of the injuries were serious.

Tensions at the scene remained high hours after the blast. Police and soldiers cordoned off the area and prevented journalists from approaching. Two cameras were damaged when a scuffle broke out between security forces and journalists who were trying to reach the attack site, a police official said.

Hospital officials confirmed the casualties. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The attack was the deadliest in Iraq in more than a week. On Oct. 27, insurgents unleashed a string of bombings and other attacks around the country that left at least 40 people dead.

It was the second bombing in Taji in less than 24 hours. On Monday, police said a car bomb struck an army patrol not far from the site of Tuesday's blast, wounding eight people. Another bombing Monday near an outdoor market in a Shiite neighborhood on Baghdad's outskirts killed four.

Also Tuesday, Iraq's Cabinet voted to do away with a major social safety net program and instead provide cash payments directly to citizens, government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said.

The reform would bring an end to food ration cards that many Iraqis use to buy basic, highly subsidized foodstuffs such as flour and rice.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bolivia returns tiny mummy to Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP)—The mummified toddler seized from antiquities traffickers is at least 700 years old and sits, spine curved forward, only about a foot tall. It was welcomed back to Peru on Tuesday as a sort of celebrity, a symbol of the nation's effort to protect its cultural heritage. "This small package," Culture Minister Luis Peirano told reporters, "is just a sample of the sacking, of the violation of our patrimony and all our inheritance." Police in neighboring Bolivia seized it two years ago as a Bolivian citizen tried to ship it to an address in Compiegne, France, in a cardboard box.

North Mali Islamist group says it rejects violence

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—An Islamist group carrying out public executions and amputations in northern Mali said Tuesday that it rejects "all forms of extremism and terrorism" and called upon other armed organizations controlling the region, including a branch of al-Qaida, to engage in political talks with the government. The turnabout was announced by a representative of an Ansar Dine delegation that has been holding talks for the last several days with mediators in the capital of neighboring Burkina Faso. The meetings in Burkina Faso appear to be part of a new, regional attempt to set up negotiations to resolve the Mali crisis ahead of a possible military intervention that is expected to be led by African forces with logistical backing from the European Union and the United States. France is heading the international effort to plan the military campaign to end the occupation by Ansar Dine and other Islamists in Mali's north.

South Africa banknotes launched with Mandela image

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—New South African banknotes featuring the image of former president and anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela are going into circulation. Reserve Bank Governor Gill Marcus made the first purchase using the new rand notes at a small shop in Pretoria on Tuesday. She says the country tries to upgrade its notes every seven years for security reasons as technologies change. The new 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 rand banknotes feature Mandela's image on one side and the other side maintains the Big Five animals already on the bills.

Focus

Young immigrant, newly fearless, ponders future

NEW YORK (AP)—Angy Rivera glided through the airport as though she owned it, giddy with excitement at her brave new world.

Then she saw the security guards, and froze.

After a lifetime of avoiding any public place where she might be asked for identification, had she just made the biggest mistake of her life? Would she be stopped, arrested, detained—and deported? Nervously, she handed over her boarding pass.

The security guard barely glanced at her Colombian passport, questioned her about a tube of hair mousse—and waved her through. Elated, she boarded the plane.

"I am flying for the first time," the 22-year-old criminal justice student from Queens wrote, in a jubilant essay.

"I left something up in between the air and clouds," she wrote. "Not my luggage. Fear."

That pulsing fear that had part of her life for 19 years, since her mother brought her here from Colombia—gone, swept away by President Barack Obama's announcement in August that some young illegal immigrants would be allowed temporary status and work permits.

Now she could visit the Department of Motor Vehicles, just to witness the crazy lines her friends complained about. Now she could savor the simple pleasure of walking home at night without the nagging fear that any little incident might trigger her deportation.

This is the way it is for hundreds of thousands of young men and women who suddenly can be sheltered from deportation under Obama's policy. So far, about 180,000 have applied for the program, and nearly 4,600 have been approved, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; with a flick of a bureaucratic switch, young immigrants are coming out of the shadows.

But Angy Rivera is special. "Angy is our rock star," jokes a friend, Melissa Garcia Velez.

In the past two years, Rivera has become one of the most visible leaders in a nationwide movement of young people brought here illegally as children and fighting for the right to stay.

Along with Velez, she is a member of the New York State Youth Leadership Council, a nonprofit, youth-led organization that fights for immigrant rights. Her funny, pointed videos about the perils of navigating a life that is "undocumented and unafraid" are posted on the Internet. Her "Ask Angy" advice column has counseled hundreds of young illegal immigrants on everything from

AP

In this Friday, March 16, 2012 photo, Angy Rivera, who lives in the Queens borough of New York, uses a megaphone during an immigrant rights rally in New York. At marches in Washington and rallies in New York, sometimes outside Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices, Rivera has urged other undocumented youth to "come out" too, as she embraced her newfound sense of identity and community.

dating to suicide; the BBC has done a short piece on the column, as has NPR.

But suddenly the star, the one who can always research the answers and write about them in pithy prose, is stumped. And scared.

After sitting down with a lawyer, she learned that not only is she eligible for deferred action—a murky status that allows recipients a reprieve but is not a path to citizenship—she might be eligible for much more. A deeply buried horror from her childhood, which surfaced during a rigorous examination by her lawyer, means she might qualify for a special visa granted only to victims of serious crime. And that could lead to a green card and citizenship.

The knowledge has turned Rivera's head upside down.

If she is no longer "undocumented and unafraid," as her T-shirt proclaims, then what will she become?

If she is no longer illegal, she wonders, can she continue to offer advice to those who are?

Can she remain a leader in an organization where a core belief is that all decisions, big and small, are made by young people living here illegally on behalf of those living here illegally? Those with any kind of temporary visa or permanent status are asked to leave the room.

"I won't want to leave the room," Rivera says, forlornly.

Growing up, Rivera's mother warned her never to go to an airport, or the department of motor vehicles, or even a hospital—any place where she might be asked for identification.

She couldn't go on trips abroad with friends, or fly, or drive. When she got older, she made excuses about why she couldn't go for drinks with colleagues after work.

Her mother, Maria, used fake passports to travel from Colombia when Rivera was 3. They settled in Queens and Rivera quickly adapted, acting as translator for her mother, excelling in school. Though she knew she "didn't have papers" as Maria put it, she didn't fully understand the implications until she was a teenager. As friends began applying for jobs and drivers licenses and college, Rivera felt stuck, left behind while others pursued opportunities denied to her.

She couldn't work without a Social Security number. And, as a non-citizen, she wasn't eligible for financial aid, despite top grades.

The oldest of four—her siblings are all American-born citizens—Rivera has nothing but gratitude and admiration for the mother who had warned her to be careful.

"Don't talk about this, don't trust anyone," she writes in a poem called "Rusty Chains."

"...no le digas a nadi! I heard her repeat. Don't tell anybody."

But two years ago, Rivera spilled her heart to the world at a "Coming out of the Shadows" rally in New York. At first she was terrified. She could barely bring herself to wear the T-shirt, let alone say the words "My name is Angy. I am undocumented and unafraid" in public.

But once she did, there was no stopping her.

At marches in Washington and rallies in New York, sometimes outside Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices, Rivera was out front, brandishing a megaphone, urging others to "come out" too. She started writing her advice column, making short videos at home, writing blogs and essays and poems, embracing her newfound sense of identity and community.

"You could see this transformation," says friend and fellow NYSLYC member Norma Juarez. "She became a different Angy, more confident, more sure."

The transformation horrified Maria, who begged her daughter to leave the organization, to stay home, to be safe.

"You are going to get us both deported," her mother said, weeping.

But Rivera was firm. This was a fight she had to pursue, she told her mother.

When Rivera first got involved, the movement—a loose coalition of youth groups around the country—was focused mainly on the DREAM Act, which would allow a path to citizenship for some illegal youth who graduated from high school and spent two years in college or in the military. The act has failed several times.

Lately, many young immigrants have escalated their tactics, practicing civil disobedience, getting arrested, testing the Obama administration's professed new policy of "prosecutorial discretion," designed to focus on the deportation of known criminals, not students or people with no criminal record.

Rivera has refused to put herself in a position to be arrested. Her mother was already worried sick by all the hate mail her daughter receives on the Internet.

But gradually Maria has grown to understand her daughter's passion—and to support her cause. Now she follows "Ask Angy" on Facebook and boasts about her accomplishments to friends.

And she shares her own story: of leaving Colombia in search of a better life. Of working at any job she could find—dog grooming, waitressing, construction. Of struggling to understand her new world.

She knows that critics blame her for the trials of her child, and sometimes she feels guilty, too. She cries recalling her daughter's heartbreak on orientation day at John Jay College of Criminal Justice at the City University of New York, when Rivera was told she was not eligible for financial aid.

"I was afraid she wouldn't come home that day," she said.

Only a year ago, Rivera says, her mother would never have shared such memories, would have been too scared to talk about her illegal status.

"In coming out, I liberated myself," Rivera says. "And I liberated my mother too."

When President Obama stood in the Rose Garden this summer and delivered the speech that would change Rivera's life, she was in a Chinese restaurant in Queens with friends.

Having memorized nearly all Obama's previous speeches on immigration, she deliberately avoided listening to this one. More of the same, she thought. More nice words about young people like her and how "courageous" they are, more empty promises about trying to help them.

So when she got home to a barrage of email and Facebook messages about the President's executive order, her initial reaction was skepticism. Was this just a ruse to round up young illegal immigrants and deport them and their families?

"I can't apply for this," she told Maria. "I won't do anything that might jeopardize you."

But the mother who was once so fearful would have none of it, threatening to file the application herself if her daughter refused. And so Rivera began gathering documents that could prove she had been living continually in the country since the age of 16, and that she was here on June 15, the day of Obama's speech.

School reports, college applications, her community service work as president of the Latino club in high school, the awards and grants she has won for her writing, her internships at a publishing company and nonprofit organization, bank statements, even a small newspaper article on the cloth bracelets she sells to help pay her tuition.

And the police file from long ago.

"Is there anything in your past I should know?" immigration lawyer Lauren Burke asked, when they sat down for the first time in September.

Haltingly, Rivera told her of the month she spent in foster care when she was 9. She had been sexually assaulted by her former stepfather, she said. Her mother had brought her to the police and filed a report. She had received counseling. It was not something she had shared with many people.

But it was all documented—and that, said Burke, was key.

Not once in all these years had Rivera ever imagined a shred of good coming from that dark time. Yet suddenly her lawyer was saying she might qualify for a U visa, the kind given to victims of sexual abuse. She could apply for deferred action, too. But the visa would grant her far more—the path to citizenship she yearned for.

"Angy, you deserve this," Burke said.

But Rivera was speechless.

Environment

Innovative technology provides power from poultry poop

MCT

Tons of poultry litter compost at Will Taylor's West Virginia farm generates heat that's being redirected to warm the chicken houses.

By MATT FLEMING
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

PETERSBURG, W.Va.—A new heat recovery system for poultry litter may hold some promise for energy cost control for Maryland farmers—and may even reap environmental benefits.

In a nutshell, the heat recovery system in use at Cottage Hill Farm takes the heat the litter generates while composting and transfers it into the chicken houses, reducing the amount of propane normally used to warm the barns.

"People look at litter like a villain, and rightly so," said Triea Systems Inc. owner Jim O'Brien. "What we do is turn it into a hero. If you can use this instead of using propane, to do what you were once doing for 70 percent less than you were once doing it, then that stuff's a hero."

Poultry litter, rich in nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous, when applied in amounts greater than the crop and land can absorb, is one of the leading causes of algal blooms in the Chesapeake Bay. The algae absorb oxygen and sunlight, creating hypoxic "dead" zones.

Much of the current debate on Bay health centers on the delicate balance between this nutrient-high runoff and a $2.2 billion industry that, according to Delmarva Poultry Industry, employed 13,155 people in 2011.

While representatives of Triea, headquartered in Frederick, Md., make no claims that the heat recovery system will address the nutrient issue, Will Taylor, who runs Cottage Hill Farm, said there are environmental benefits.

"I'm not sure that it depletes (the nutrients)," said Taylor. "It makes it a more stable element, where it's not going to leech as fast in the ground water. And that's something we need to research more after we get the thing up and going."

"Also, if you take the litter straight out of the chicken house, you get a lot of gassing off of ammonia and nitrogen," said Taylor. "Once you compost it and make it more stable, you reduce that also. So there's several ways you can improve the litter environmentally, just by stacking and composting."

There could be additional benefits.

By allowing the litter to compost, farmers could expand the market for it, said Sustainable Chesapeake's Executive Director Kristen Hughes Evans, whose group seeks "innovative approaches to restoring the Chesapeake Bay that drive economic development in support of farms, businesses, and communities in the region."

"Right now, the chicken litter gets spread on pastures and commodity crops, like soy beans, wheat, hay and row crops," said Evans. "If they can broaden their customers to fresh-market vegetable farmers, then that creates more opportunities for farmers to get paid."

Composting litter may help kill pathogens that prevent conventional litter from being used on farm-to-table crops like vegetables, said Royden Powell, the Maryland Department of Agriculture's assistant secretary of the Office of Resource Conservation.

But, "currently, the demand for litter in its uncomposted state exceeds the supply," said Powell.

On average, Taylor's heating costs are between $20,000 and $26,000 per house per month. O'Brien said that his system will save approximately 70 percent of that cost by reducing the propane usage.

Driving these high costs, the air temperature must be around 100 degrees when the hatchlings arrive, and it decreases by one-third over the span of 34 days. The air in the chicken house must be renewed approximately every five minutes to flush the harmful ammonia gas built up inside the coop.

A new system costs around $80,000 per house. Mike Hesse, Triea's regional system engineer, said that with the energy savings, the costs will be fully recouped within five years.

Because the system is still very much in its infancy, not a lot of data has been collected, particularly given that Taylor's was installed a little too late for the winter season. But as the recent weather has become colder, promising data is coming in.

"We know that the system performs now," said Hesse. "Now we just want to make it more efficient for the farmer."

Farmers like Taylor have little time, so the system depends on the ease with which a farmer can use it. Litter has an optimum usage life of three months, which is how often it must be replaced. Because the process of collecting the litter and stacking it in the litter shed was somewhat cumbersome, improvements are being made.

"The only thing the farmer does is change out the litter," said Hesse. "But this system actually came out to be more work than we thought it would, so we've redesigned it, and the new design is being fabricated now."

The old system involved moving the litter in relatively small amounts to the shed, where the cylindrical heat exchanges were inserted. At Taylor's farm, there are 34,000 chickens per house, which each create 42 tons of litter every six weeks.

That's a lot of litter to move manually.

The new system will consist of mattress-spring-like heat exchanges inside a roll-off Dumpster, which will be much more efficient for the farmer by cutting back on trips between the chicken houses and shed.

"I told them when we started that if this is a deal where I need even an hour a day, I can't do it," said Taylor. "Two or three times a year is not bad, but even once a week is bad."

AS RESULT OF EPA INVESTIGATION

Hyundai, Kia to correct overstated MPG claims

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced last week that Hyundai Motor America and Kia Motors America will lower their fuel economy (mpg) estimates for the majority of their model year 2012 and 2013 models after EPA testing found discrepancies between agency results and data submitted by the company.

ON THE NET
http://www.epa.gov/fueleconomy/labelchange.htm

The auto companies have submitted to the EPA a plan for cars currently on dealer lots to be re-labeled with new window stickers reflecting the corrected mileage estimates.

The mileage on most vehicle labels will be reduced by one to two mpg, and the largest adjustment will be six mpg highway for the Kia Soul.

"Consumers rely on the window sticker to help make informed choices about the cars they buy,' said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "EPA's investigation will help protect consumers and ensure a level playing field among automakers."

At its National Vehicle and Fuel Emission Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich., EPA routinely tests vehicles—150 to 200 a year, or about 15 percent of the possible vehicle configurations—to ensure that their performance matches the mileage and emissions data required to be submitted to EPA by automakers. This auditing helps to ensure that vehicles on the road meet tailpipe emission standards to protect public health and the environment and that all carmakers follow the same procedures for calculating mileage estimates. EPA conducts both random and targeted audits, based on factors such as consumer complaints.

EPA had received a number of consumer complaints about Hyundai mileage estimates. Through the agency's ongoing audit program, staff experts at EPA's NVFEL observed discrepancies between results from EPA testing of a MY2012 Hyundai Elantra and information provided to EPA by Hyundai. The agency expanded its investigation into data for other Hyundai and Kia vehicles, leading to last week's announcement.

EPA's audit testing occasionally uncovers individual vehicles whose label values are incorrect and requires that the manufacturer re-label the vehicle. This has happened twice since 2000. This is the first time where a large number of vehicles from the same manufacturer have deviated so significantly.

EPA and DOE are updating their joint fuel economy site, www.fueleconomy.gov, to reflect the Hyundai and Kia corrected numbers. ***(EPA)***

DO YOUR PART

Green holiday décor on a dime

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

These days, there is inspiration for holiday decor and decoration nearly everywhere. You can find extravagant displays at craft and holiday shops. You can search out elaborate designs on places such as Pinterest and Facebook. You can also find elegant inspiration right outside your front door. This season, Do Your Part to bring the outdoors in as you decorate. Not only is it inexpensive and attractive, it's a whole lot easier on the environment.

My friend tells a story that each December when she was a little girl, her mother made her sneak into her neighbor's yard and steal magnolia leaves to display on their fireplace mantel. Now, I'm not advising you to steal any but my friend's mother was certainly right on one front -- those magnolia leaves are a beautiful way to decorate for the holidays. I use the ones from my tree as the base of my centerpiece for holiday meals. But any pretty leaves will do and it's super simple. You can use your backyard greenery in flower arrangements, wreaths, and garlands.

Another easy and pretty idea this time of year is to use natural branches to help decorate your home. These branches can be tied in bundles to your banisters or used as part of your centerpieces. Add some color to your arrangements with a few winterberries such as Nandina, Holly, or Pyracantha. Fruits on tables, shelves, and mantels are also perfect for fall and winter. Lining them with pumpkins, gourds, pears, or shiny apples is both beautiful and budget friendly.

Something I do to decorate throughout the year can be special at holiday time. I fill a large glass hurricane vase with natural items that symbolize the season. Filling them with pinecones, beautiful branches, along with the berries I mentioned above, can be breathtaking. Dangle a few ornaments from the sturdier branches for extra impact. Along with the hurricane vase, baskets are another year round vessel. You can swap out the ribbons and what you fill the baskets with as the seasons change.

Then, there are a few nature inspired finishing touches you can create this time of year. Consider creating napkin rings with twine and cinnamon sticks. Fresh cranberries are also a nice ornamental touch for table decorations.

This season, there's no need to splurge on expensive holiday decor. By bringing some of nature's finest and freshest ingredients inside, you'll Do Your Part to create the perfect feel without spending even more money this holiday season.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part, *a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.*

Life & Style

Media treads carefully until early race call

NEW YORK (AP)—News organizations anticipated a long night following the presidential race on Tuesday, but it all ended suddenly.

Networks fell in line after NBC, at 11:12 p.m. ET, declared that President Barack Obama would win the battleground state of Ohio and thus, the presidency.

The Associated Press called the race President Barack Obama at 11:38 p.m.

The calls, after a night of careful talk by new organizations, led to the odd spectacle of Republican strategist Karl Rove, a Fox News Channel analyst who helped raise money for GOP candidate Mitt Romney, vociferously complaining that the network had called the Ohio results prematurely for Obama.

"It seems to me you have a lot of votes left to be cast," Rove said, appearing to refer to votes being counted.

Hours after some of the first polls closed, news organizations said most states that were considered true battlegrounds were too close to call. Burned eight years ago by early exit polls that proved misleading, care was taken not to draw too many conclusions this time—partly, as CBS' Bob Schieffer said, because many of the findings were contradictory.

Two of the three biggest broadcast networks had new leaders in place for presidential election night coverage. Diane Sawyer and George Stephanopoulos teamed on ABC, and Scott Pelley led the CBS coverage. Brian Williams was back in the anchor seat at NBC.

But 2012 was notable for the vast array of outlets that an interested consumer could command to create their own media experience on different screens, with web sites offering deep drill-downs in data and social media hosting raucous conversations.

AP

People watch election results displayed on a utility lift suspended from the front of the GE Building at Rockefeller Center, in New York, Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

Bellamy Young

By CINDY ELAVSKY
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I watched the season premiere of "Grey's Anatomy" and saw that Mark Sloan died. Did the person who played him die in real life? I noticed at the end they gave a birth year and a death year.—Wayne M., via e-mail

A: Eric Dane, who played the medical drama's Dr. Mark "McSteamy" Sloan since the show's second season, is alive and well, unlike his character. He currently is in preproduction on the feature film "Sweet Spot," which also stars Salma Hayek and Kurt Russell. The film is about a former New York Yankees pitcher past his prime who tries to revive his career in the Mexican Baseball League, and will be released in 2013.

■■■

Q: I am so happy that "Scandal" was renewed and has started its second season. Can you please give me any spoilers for what's coming up?—Tina A., Hartford, Conn.

A: If you're familiar with Shonda Rimes' other shows ("Grey's Anatomy" and "Private Practice"), you know you're in for drama, for sure. I spoke with series star Bellamy Young (who plays first lady Mellie Grant), and she gave me a little tease of what to expect this year.

"We'll have government agents gone rogue, college students gone missing and sex scandals. Olivia will get more complicated this season, which is fun to watch because Kerry (Washington) does it so well. And it's just so human. Mellie will get up to no good at all. But Shonda plays it very close to the vest with the story line. Getting the script for the next episode is a big deal. And we're all texting each other: ?What page are you on?' And it's all so shocking! We all just can't wait to see what's next."

■■■

Q: I really like Sean Bean, especially in "Troy" and "Game of Thrones." What else can I see him in?—Helen S., Virginia Beach, Va.

A: The British thespian, 53, first entered my radar when he played Bond bad guy Alec Trevelyan in 1995's "GoldenEye." He's done tons of stuff before and since, but nowadays he is best known as the doomed Eddard Stark. Last season, he co-starred with Ashley Judd in "Missing," and in 2010 he played Zeus in "Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief," and will reprise that role in next year's "Sea of Monsters." From 2008-2010, Sean played the title character in "Crusoe," he tried to foil Nicolas Cage's treasure hunt in 2004's "National Treasure," and he played Boromir in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. The list goes on and on.

■■■

Q: I think that Jimmy Kimmel did a bang-up job hosting the Emmy Awards. Any chance he'll host the next Academy Awards ceremony?—Bob K., via e-mail

A: While Jimmy might have an Oscar-hosting gig in his future, the 85th annual Academy Awards ceremony, which will take place Feb. 24, will be hosted by "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

Bruno Mars: 'SNL' can call me whenever they want

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruno Mars' says he had so much fun hosting "Saturday Night Live," he'd be happy to do it again.

"Whatever 'SNL' wants from me, they can always call me," the smiling 27-year-old said in an interview. "I don't know who told them I can act or anything, 'cause I can't. I don't know what they saw. (But) whatever they need from me, they can get."

The singer-songwriter's Oct. 20 appearance as host and musical guest gave the NBC variety show its second-best ratings this season behind last week's episode, hosted by comedian Louis C.K.

Mars was praised for his hilarious and silly sketches, particularly one skit where he did impersonations of other musicians as a live fill-in at Pandora when the company's computers crashed.

"It was kind of a way for me to face my fears and just let it all hang loose, literally," he said, laughing. "People don't understand that they're changing things right before the show, so you can't memorize lines because they're going to change it. They cut sketches, and it's an amazing operation. I wouldn't trade that experience for the world."

AP

This Oct. 20, 2012 photo released by NBC shows guest host Bruno Mars performing on "Saturday Night Live," in New York.

The Grammy winner says he watched the show days after it aired live, and that's when things started to sink in, especially seeing himself dressed as a woman.

"I was like, 'Oh my god,'" he said, adding with a laugh: "Called my mom, 'Mom!'"

The "SNL" success is giving Mars a boost as he readies the release of his sophomore album, "Unorthodox Jukebox," out Dec. 11. It features Esperanza Spalding, Mark Ronson, Jeff Bhasker, Diplo, Paul Epworth and others.

On "SNL," he debuted a new song, "Young Girls," and performed his current single, the upbeat "Locked Out of Heaven." It's his 12th Top 10 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart as a performer, songwriter or producer.

"I love ('Locked Out of Heaven') because it's different ... than what you're used to hearing me maybe sing normally," he said.

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Wreck-It Ralph 3D

Friday		7:05	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	7:05	9:35
Monday	1:05	7:05	
Tuesday thru Thursday		7:05	

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Wreck-It Ralph 2D

Friday	4:05
Saturday & Sunday	4:05
Monday	4:05
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:05

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Paranormal Activity 4

Friday		7:15
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	7:15
Monday	1:15	7:15
Tuesday thru Thursday		7:15

Cast: Stephen Dunham, Alexondra Lee
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Here Comes The Boom

Friday		4:00	7:00 9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00 9:30
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00

Cast: Kevin James, Henry Winkler, Salma Hayek
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG

Fun Size

Friday	4:15	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	4:15	9:45
Monday	4:15	
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:15	

Cast: Victoria Justice, Thomas Mann, Chelsea Handler
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

Silent Hill: Revelation 3D

Friday		7:30	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	7:30	10:00
Monday	1:30	7:30	
Tuesday thru Thursday		7:30	

Cast: Adelaide Clemens, Carrie-Anne Moss
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Silent Hill: Revelation 2D

Friday	4:30
Saturday & Sunday	4:30
Monday	4:30
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:30

Cast: Adelaide Clemens, Carrie-Anne Moss
Genre: Horror • Rated R

A Secret Affair

Friday		4:10	7:10 9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10 9:40
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10

Cast: Anne Curtis, Derek Ramsay, Andi Eigenmann
Genre: Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13

Pitch Perfect

Friday		4:20	7:20 9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20 9:55
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20

Cast: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Ben Platt
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG13

Hotel Transylvania 3D

Friday		7:25	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:25	7:25	9:50
Monday	1:25	7:25	
Tuesday thru Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Hotel Transylvania 2D

Friday	4:25
Saturday & Sunday	4:25
Monday	4:25
Tuesday thru Thursday	4:25

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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Carrie Underwood: 'It's a fun time for country'

By GERRICK D. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sure, Carrie Underwood might have lost out to brassy spitfire Miranda Lambert at the 46th Country Music Association Awards in Nashville last week. But the host—who pulled off the duty for a fifth time with fellow country star Brad Paisley—is reveling in all the attention the genre is currently getting.

With country-pop sweetheart Taylor Swift sitting at the top of the Billboard charts, a soapy ABC drama anchored in Nashville and Underwood's tour itinerary expanding—this year included her first dates in Europe and Australia and she extended the regularly sold-out trek well into 2013—Underwood boasts, "It's a fun time for country."

When we caught up with Underwood ahead of her recent "Blown Away" tour stop and CMA gig (CMT will re-broadcast the ceremony Nov. 19) she weighed in on all the attention Nashville has been getting.

AP

Carrie Underwood arrives at the 46th Annual Country Music Awards at the Bridgestone Arena on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn.

Question: This tour was your first to go internationally. Country is so closely associated with America, were you at all nervous about how you would be received in Europe and Australia?

Answer: Australia was definitely open to it, they have Keith Urban and they were really open to us. I wasn't too worried about Australia, but I was about going to the U.K. I pictured just a lot of British people in the audience singing my song back to me—and it was hard for me to envision. But it was really great. Everywhere we went there were fans waiting outside. I was pleasantly surprised at the reception.

Q: A common criticism in your genre is when artists gravitate toward pop sounds. How do you balance between tradition and achieving crossover success?

A: I grew up listening to everything. I have such a love for music, but I don't want to make the same album over and over again. I love that I can sing a song like "Blown Away" and then turn around and sing a song like "Cupid's Got a Shotgun." One has this amazing country story line with the music that fits the song. I'm not gonna try to make it something that it's not. I'm not gonna think, 'I need to "countrify" this by adding more fiddles and steel guitar.' We do creatively what the song wants. And "Cupid's Got a Shotgun"—you couldn't get more country than that.

I love being able to explore like that. When a song like "Before He Cheats," "Blown Away" or "Cowboy Casanova" manages to have some crossover success, it does it "as is." I've never been one for doing remixes. Then I've gotta decide which version am I gonna be tonight: country Carrie or pop Carrie? I'd rather just make country music that anybody can get into no matter what they listen to.

Q: You think that's what keeps you so accessible?

A: I've had so many people come up to me and say, "I didn't listen to country music and now I do." If they've found those things that have elements that they are used to like an R&B flair or pop flair, or even rock, that can introduce them to so many other artists and they can form an appreciation for the genre as a whole. And I love the fact that you have your standard country artists on the radio and you have people like Lady Antebellum and Rascal Flatts or Keith Urban or me, where we all occupy the same space and you're not turning on the radio and listening to the same song.

Q: It feels like this was a massive year for country, and it's allowed this surge of Americana to be embraced.

A: I think it's great. Obviously anything that brings more people to our format is a great thing. I respect country music because I feel like it's more about the talent and the songwriting and I put on a big show and we have a lot of stuff, but I feel confident in myself enough as an artist and a singer that I can have all of those fun toys and know that we don't need all the bells and whistles either.

Q: "Nashville" is my new guilty pleasure. Have you gotten a chance to watch it?

A: I did. We got a copy beforehand. I know a lot of people that work on the show and they wanted to know what we thought. I think Nashville is such a great town and I think there is so much that they can get into about the music industry. I'm excited for us as a community that we can shine some more light. It seems like "Nashville" is getting more spotlight on the town as a whole. I heard, I don't know if this is true, that they are going to do like a "Real Housewifes of Nashville" and I've heard rumors about things on Food Network. It seems that people want to get into Nashville more, and that's fun for us.

Q: If Bravo called, would you do it?

A: No. I feel like my time on "(American) Idol," there were so many cameras on us all the time I could never get used to it. I don't know how people get used to having cameras on them in their daily lives. I'm a private person too and we don't ever film anything in our home because it's off limits. It's like letting people see your messy house.

JILL JACKSON'S HOLLYWOOD

By TONY RIZZO
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

HOLLYWOOD—Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have found the perfect way to keep their family together while they're working in different films in London. Brad is filming Ridley Scott's "The Counselor," and Angelina is shooting "Maleficent," in which she plays the witch from "Snow White." Rumors are everywhere that they'll soon have a very secret, private wedding. Pitt is starring with Michael Fassbender, Javier Bardem, Cameron Diaz, Penelope Cruz and John Leguizamo.

I ran into hot new actor Alex Hafner as he was leaving for Spain to shoot a few scenes in the film. He admitted, "I didn't have scenes with Brad or Penelope, but Javier and Cameron were on set with me. All my acting classes and endless interviews were worth it to get to work with a legendary director like Ridley Scott!" "The Counselor" comes out in November 2013, but "Maleficent" won't hit screens until March 2014.

■ ■ ■

Hafner

While most actors are busy making headlines, Ryan Gosling is busy making movies. His film "The Place Beyond the Pines," with Bradley Cooper, Eva Mendes and Ray Liotta, received raves at The Toronto Film Festival and will get a 2013 release. "Gangster Squad," with Josh Brolin, Sean Penn and Emma Stone, will be out January 2013. "Only God Forgives," with Kristin Scott Thomas, is due March 2013.

Gosling is currently shooting an untitled film with "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" Oscar-nominee Rooney Mara for director Terrance Malick. The movie had been titled "Lawless," but Malick let Shia LaBouf and Tom Hardy's recent film have it. Small wonder that Celebritynetworth.com rates Gosling's net worth at $50 million!

Meanwhile, Malick's "King of Cups," with Oscar-winners Christian Bale, Natalie Portman and Cate Blanchett, also boasts sexy "Magic Mike" star Joe Manganiello, Antonio Banderas, Frieda Pinto and "Love Story" and "Peyton Place" star Ryan O'Neal. No release date yet.

■ ■ ■

A&E plans to breathe new life into the Alfred Hitchcock classic "Psycho," which had unforgettable performances from Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh and Vera Miles. Wisely, the series "Bates Motel" is not a remake, but a prequel that will tell the backstory of Norman Bates and show how he became a serial killer. The young Norman will be played by "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" star Freddie Highmore. "House at the End of the Street" and the Alexander Skarsgard/Jason Bateman film "Disconnect" co-star Max Thieriot will play his older brother, and Oscar-nominee Vera Farmiga ("Up in the Air," 2009) will play his mother, Norma. I saw "Psycho" when I was 7 years old and had nightmares for years because of it ... this is one family reunion I might have to miss!

Send letters to Tony Rizzo's Hollywood, 8306 Wilshire Blvd., No. 362, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.

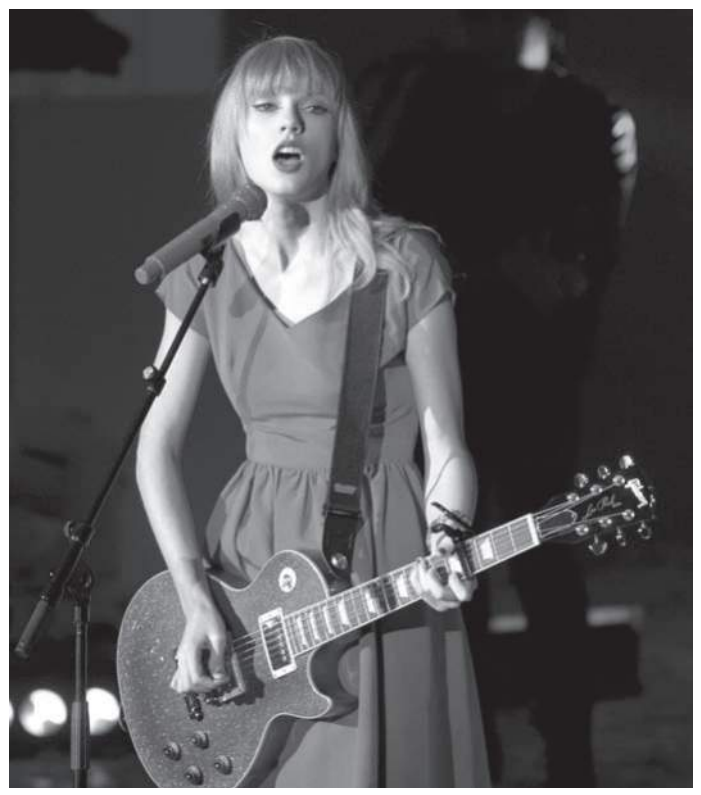
Taylor Swift shocked by 'unbelievable' album sales

London (AP)—Taylor Swift says the response to her latest album, "Red," has been "unbelievable."

The American singer was speaking at Westfield London shopping mall Tuesday, where she was switching on the Christmas lights.

Speaking after the big moment, Swift said: "I had hoped that my fans would get what I was doing there—that they would embrace it. And the fact that they celebrated that and 1.2 million of them went out and bought it the first week and it became my first U.K. No. 1 album, it is absolutely unbelievable."

The Grammy-winner rewarded her British fans at the event by performing songs including her hit from the album, "We Are Never Getting Back Together."



AP

Taylor Swift performs songs from her newly released album 'Red' on-stage at a shopping center after switching on the Christmas lights, London, Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012.

TOP TEN

iTunes' Official Music Charts for the week ending Nov. 5, 2012

TOP SONGS

1. "**Gangnam Style**," PSY
2. "**Locked Out of Heaven**," Bruno Mars
3. "**Die Young**," Ke$ha
4. "**One More Night**," Maroon 5
5. "**Diamonds**," Rihanna
6. "**We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together**," Taylor Swift
7. "**Some Nights**," Fun.
8. "**I Cry**," Flo Rida
9. "**I Knew You Were Trouble**," Taylor Swift
10. "**Better Dig Two**," The Band Perry

TOP ALBUMS

1. "**Red**," Taylor Swift
2. "**Dreams and Nightmares**," Meek Mill
3. "**good kid, m.A.A.d city**," Kendrick Lamar
4. "**Night Train**," Jason Aldean
5. "**Babel**," Mumford & Sons
6. "**18 Months**," Calvin Harris
7. "**Rebel Soul**," Kid Rock
8. "**Take Me Home: Yearbook Edition**," One Direction
9. "**Tailgates & Tanlines**," Luke Bryan
10. "**Chief**," Eric Church

UK lawmaker suspended for joining reality TV show

LONDON (AP)—A British lawmaker was suspended by her party Tuesday after she swapped the political jungle for the Australian rainforest and became a contestant on a reality TV show.

Conservative legislator Nadine Dorries was under fire for taking part in "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here." The show strands C-list celebrities in the Australian wilderness, subjects them to trials involving assorted creepy-crawlies and lets viewers vote them off one by one.

The Conservatives, who lead Britain's coalition government, said Dorries was being suspended from the party's parliamentary caucus until she could return and meet with Chief Whip George Young, who is responsible for party discipline.

Dorries was criticized by fellow Conservatives for taking up to a month off from her duties to appear on the show. Former Conservative member of Parliament Harry Greenway called the decision "outrageous," and Home Secretary Theresa May said a lawmaker's job "is in their constituency and in the House of Commons."

Teri Shields, Brooke's mom and manager, dead at 79

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Teri Shields raised eyebrows when she allowed her 11-year-old daughter, Brooke, to be cast as a prostitute in 1978's "Pretty Baby." A few years later, she permitted a teenage Brooke Shields to famously star in a series of commercials for Calvin Klein jeans, provocatively professing that nothing comes between "me and my Calvins."

Teri Shields died last week in New York City, according to Jill Fritzo, a spokeswoman for Brooke Shields. She was 79. The New York Times reported the elder Shields died following a long illness related to dementia.

Teri Shields started promoting her daughter as an actress and model when she was still an infant and managed her until her 20s. Shields described her daughter's fan appeal in a 1978 TV interview: "They see total innocence, which is totally there. And two, they have the sexy child too, they have the sexy person—that appeals to them."

Bob Dylan predicts Obama 'in a landslide'

AP

In this May 29, 2012, file photo, President Barack Obama stands behind Bob Dylan before awarding Dylan the Medal of Freedom during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP)—Bob Dylan says he thinks President Barack Obama is going to win in a landslide.

Dylan made the prediction Monday night midway through the song "Blowin' in the Wind" during a concert in the battleground state of Wisconsin.

Dylan spoke to the Madison audience as he was wrapping up his concert that came just hours after Obama appeared at a morning rally in the same city with rocker Bruce Springsteen.

Dylan made his comments during his encore when he said, "We tried to play good tonight since the president was here today."

He added that he thinks Obama will prevail Tuesday.

Dylan says, "Don't believe the media. I think it's going to be a landslide."

After his comments, Dylan completed the song to the roar of the crowd.

The Civil Wars cancel tour using divorce language

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Grammy-winning duo The Civil Wars have canceled their upcoming tour dates, citing irreconcilable differences.

The folk-pop duo Joy Williams and John Paul White released a statement Tuesday announcing that because of "internal discord and irreconcilable differences of ambition" they were unable to "continue as a touring entity at this time."

Although they used the language of divorce, the duo added, "Our sincere hope is to have new music for you in 2013."

Williams and White are both married, but to other people. Williams had a baby this summer with husband Nate Yetton, the duo's manager.

Earlier this year the pair canceled part of their European tour.

The duo found unexpected success with their 2011 debut album, "Barton Hollow." With backgrounds in gospel and rock, they met when they were both asked to contribute to a country project and found chemistry.

Back then, the pair framed their partnership in terms of courting. White told The Associated Press that after two songwriting sessions, "I finally got up the nerve to ask her out, as it were."

"In a musical way," Williams said.

Veterans appreciate grateful acknowledgment of service

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: As Veterans Day approaches, may I share a few guidelines that can be helpful when interacting with veterans or service members?

1. It is never OK to ask a veteran if he or she has killed someone or to joke about it. If we have, we can't even talk about it with our spouses, much less a stranger.

2. When you thank us for our service or pay for our meal, it is really appreciated. We also appreciate packages and notes.

3. Please don't tell us that wars are a waste of dollars or lives or were fought for oil. What we hear is that, in your opinion, our best friend died for nothing. We know many people disagree with war, but it's better to keep your opinions to yourself.

4. Many of us now have PTSD. If you see us acting anxious or moving away from crowds, turning our backs to the wall or fidgeting, simple kindness or a little distraction will be appreciated. Talk to us about something interesting and give us some breathing room.

5. Please remember that 15 percent of those who serve in the military are women, and some have been in combat. It's better to ask, "Are you a veteran?" rather than, "Was your husband a soldier?"

6. As with any person who has a disability, please do not stare at us. We can be sensitive about our scars or injuries and would prefer not to be asked to relive a difficult experience by being quizzed about what happened. Please also understand that war injuries today are very different than in the past and are often not visible. It is not OK to tell someone they "don't look disabled" or appear to need help.

Those of us with disabilities appreciate light conversation and assistance if we look like we are in need.

It was my pleasure to serve our country.

AMANDA C., U.S. ARMY DISABLED VETERAN

DEAR AMANDA C.: Thank you for your service. And thank you, too, for your helpful suggestions, which are sure to be appreciated not only by civilians, but also by active and retired members of our military.

Readers, as the war in Afghanistan winds down, many thousands of service members are returning home and entering the job market. Please, if possible, honor their courage, dedication and sacrifice by doing your part and providing them with employment. Considering what they have done for us, it is the least we can do to show our appreciation.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm afraid I'm an abusive girlfriend. When I get mad at my boyfriend, I yell at him and call him names. Sometimes I hit him. Even though he really makes me angry, I do love him.

I'm not crazy, but I don't know how to control myself. It's not like I'm threatening to kill him.

I don't want to go to counseling or group classes. I don't really hit him a lot. I yell more. I also have jealousy issues. What can I do?

PROBLEM GIRLFRIEND

DEAR GIRLFRIEND: Your concern is justified, because you ARE an abusive girlfriend. While I applaud your growing self-awareness, it is very important that you understand the reasons you are behaving this way so you can stop. While you may not like the idea of counseling or group anger management classes, it would be much better if you went voluntarily rather than one day having them court-mandated.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?? A SKULL FOR A RETURN ADDRESS, UNTRACEABLE CUT-OUT LETTERS, AND A CODE KEY FOR A FUTURE MESSAGE!
THIS IS REAL SECRET AGENT STUFF! WHOEVER SENT THIS IS TAKING NO CHANCES ON THE MESSAGE BEING TRACED OR INTERCEPTED!
GOSH, THE MESSAGE MUST BE SUPER TOP SECRET AND IMPORTANT! I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE! I WONDER WHEN I'LL FIND OUT!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE THE PATIENT TYPE.
THIS IS SO COOL I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM!

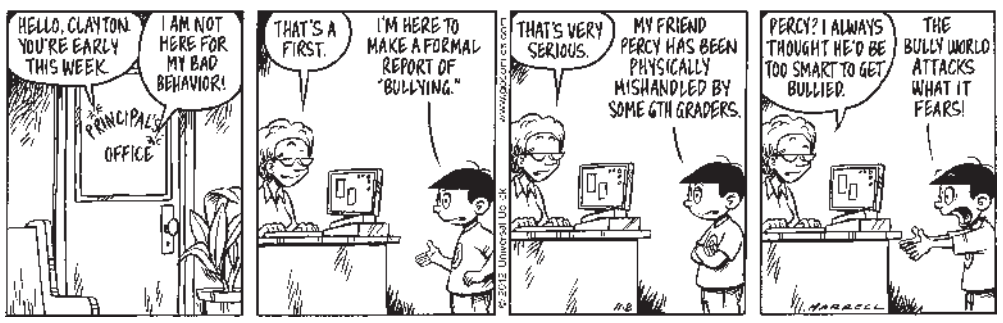
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THAT'S MY UNCLE OTTO
HE WAS VERY INQUISITIVE
THEN ONE DAY A MILKING MACHINE RIPPED HIS LIPS OFF
INTERESTING SMILE
ALBUM
JIM DAVIS 11-8

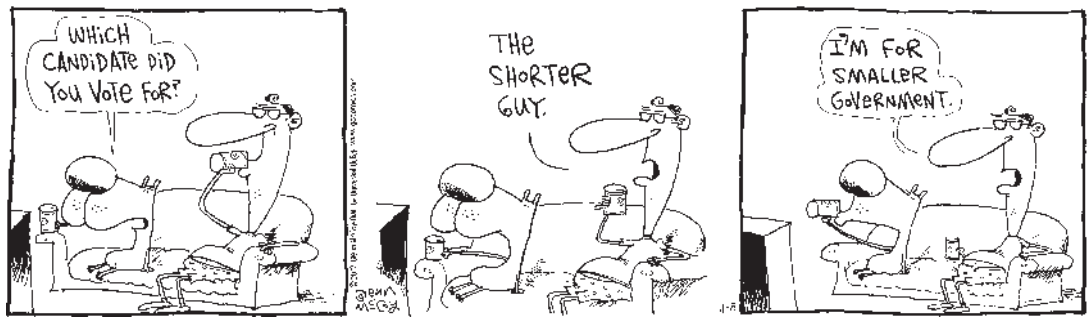
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HELLO, CLAYTON. YOU'RE EARLY THIS WEEK.
I AM NOT HERE FOR MY BAD BEHAVIOR!
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
THAT'S A FIRST.
I'M HERE TO MAKE A FORMAL REPORT OF "BULLYING."
THAT'S VERY SERIOUS.
MY FRIEND PERCY HAS BEEN PHYSICALLY MISHANDLED BY SOME 6TH GRADERS.
PERCY? I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE'D BE TOO SMART TO GET BULLIED.
THE BULLY WORLD ATTACKS WHAT IT FEARS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 From one end to t'other
5 Egg
9 Potential syrup
12 Vast time period
13 Water barrier
14 Biz deg.
15 Fast
17 Foreman foe
18 Diamond round-trippers
19 Stair part
21 Qua
22 Weak soup
24 Present
27 Island garland
28 Buy stuff
31 Lubricate
32 Past
33 Rage
34 Use an old phone
36 DIY buy
37 Leftovers recipe
38 Lucky number
40 Accomplish
41 California-Nevada lake
43 Propels
47 That guy
48 Landfill, essentially
51 Commotion
52 Swindles
53 Pond organism
54 Symbol of intrigue
55 Ardor
56 Despot

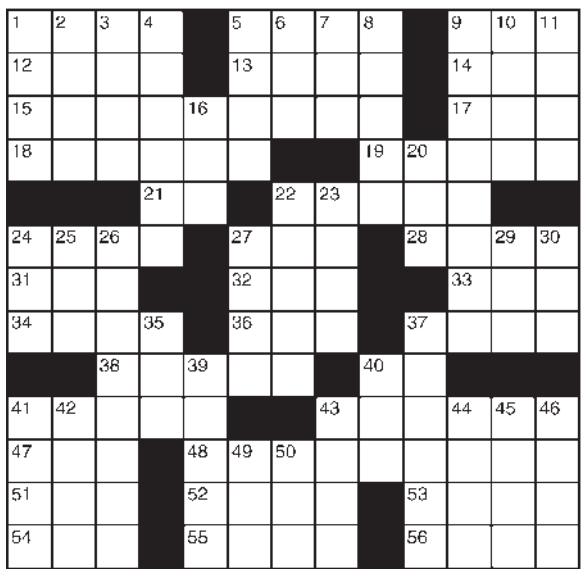
DOWN

1 Rotation gauge, for short
2 Villain's adversary
3 Wander
4 Oust from office
5 Likelihood
6 See 38-Across
7 Guitar's cousin
8 Paris subway
9 Big success
10 Competent
11 Twosome
16 Storefront sign abbr.
20 "Monty Python" opener
22 Start
23 Laugh-a-minute
24 Deity
25 "Richard —"
26 Sudden assembly that some find entertaining
27 Michigan, for one
29 Raw rock
30 Church seat
35 Writer Buscaglia
37 "Who cares?"
39 Fodder plant
40 Simpson's interjection
41 Dissolve
42 Assistant
43 "Hey, you!"
44 Congers
45 Sitarist's rendition
46 Mast
49 Fish eggs
50 Literary collection

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	U	R	A	■	D	O	M	■	S	C	O	I
S	P	A	T	■	O	N	A	■	T	O	M	E
C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	■	I	N	C	A
I	N	T	E	N	D	■	K	E	N	N	E	L
■	■	■	A	T	E	■	S	A	K	I	■	■
E	T	C	■	O	R	A	■	■	R	E	V	E	L
R	O	O	T	■	Y	E	T	■	R	E	V	S
G	E	N	R	E	■	P	R	O	■	H	E	D
■	■	J	U	M	P	■	A	D	S	■	■	■
B	R	U	I	S	E	■	I	D	C	A	R	D
O	A	R	S	■	C	O	N	S	U	M	E	R
I	T	E	M	■	A	R	E	■	B	E	N	E
L	A	R	S	■	N	E	D	■	A	N	E	W

Yesterday's answer 11-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Osbourne, 27; Parker Posey, 44; Courtney Thorne-Smith, 45; Bonnie Raitt, 63.

Happy Birthday: Maintenance will be required. Double-check what you do and who and what you are responsible for. You mustn't leave anything to chance if you want to advance. Don't act on emotions. Get the facts and sum up whatever situation you face before you react. Strive to do and be your very best. Your numbers are 2, 7, 13, 24, 32, 37, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Staying active is key. Exploring new avenues and discovering information that will help you make financial gains or finalize a settlement, contract or investment will pay off. Love is highlighted. Reconnecting with people from your past will be enlightening. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Think outside the box. Check out new interests. Positive thought and action will bring excellent results. Love is simple; don't make it so complex. Settle into a routine that will enable you to show stability, discipline and good intentions. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Not everyone is on your side. Don't share your thoughts and plans. Have a secondary plan ready and know ahead of time what your bottom line is. The quicker you resolve negative situations, the sooner you can get back on track. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Strut your stuff and share your thoughts. Socializing, networking and discovering what's available that can help you excel will lead to an interesting turn of events. Dependents will offer wise suggestions that should be considered. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be careful how you approach personal change. Not everyone in your life will be on the same page as you when it comes to how you should proceed emotionally, financially or physically. Talk is cheap and will help you sort out what's best. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Participate in activities that get you pumped up and ready to make a difference. A challenge will motivate you to make a life-altering change. Listen to what's being offered and respond diplomatically. Don't let your emotions get you into trouble. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Mobility and versatility will help you get ahead. Posturing and playing to win will keep you in the game. Love is in the stars. Being vocal about what you want and expect from someone in your life will bring you personal rewards. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A serious attitude coupled with originality and discipline will lead to an interesting offer, but before you settle for what's being suggested, you are best to consider what you are worth and if you need to defer to others. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Update your look and you will boost your confidence. Don't let the changes going on around you cause self-doubt. Prepare for new beginnings. It's up to you to pave the way for others who would like to follow in your footsteps. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick to work and finding original ways to market what you have to offer. Not everyone will be in agreement with the way you do things, but you must follow the path that works for you. Avoid making personal changes of any kind. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Getting involved in a cause you believe in will lead to working with interesting people. The connections you make will have an impact on the way you handle your financial affairs in the future. Make home improvements that will ease your stress. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't say anything if you cannot give an honest opinion. Walk away from anyone trying to put you on the spot regarding a situation you face at work or in your personal life. The less said, the better. Avoid excessive behavior. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a doer and an organizer. You are precise and punctual.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		1			
				6				
	9	4				3	7	
2				7				8
	6		4		2		9	
3				1				7
	3	1				8	5	
				4				
			5		7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	9	6	2	8	3	7	1
8	3	2	7	1	4	5	9	6
7	6	1	9	3	5	4	2	8
2	9	8	3	7	1	6	5	4
6	1	3	4	5	2	9	8	7
4	7	5	8	6	9	2	1	3
1	5	4	2	8	3	7	6	9
9	8	6	5	4	7	1	3	2
3	2	7	1	9	6	8	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NIK WALLENDA **Solution: 8 letters**

N	C	C	T	P	S	S	O	R	C	A	L	M	Y	H
I	I	O	A	A	A	A	E	S	S	E	N	R	A	H
A	R	S	N	N	B	T	F	R	E	E	R	A	C	E
G	C	E	I	C	A	O	H	E	G	E	O	F	O	G
A	U	P	E	W	E	D	R	O	T	V	W	A	S	R
R	S	O	I	V	A	N	A	C	E	Y	I	M	T	O
A	W	R	I	I	E	L	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G
F	E	T	S	E	N	N	L	R	E	I	D	L	G	N
A	A	I	O	W	R	N	T	E	A	D	R	Y	K	I
L	T	M	A	E	E	E	A	I	N	T	R	S	O	Y
L	H	R	D	R	F	Z	N	Y	G	D	I	O	O	A
S	E	E	A	S	F	K	E	D	R	H	A	O	B	R
L	R	P	M	O	O	R	L	E	I	E	T	H	N	P
O	K	L	A	W	R	W	A	A	R	R	A	S	U	I
W	O	R	L	D	T	M	I	S	T	B	A	L	R	E

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Acrobat, Across, Airs, Amadaos, Book, Border, Breeze, Calm, Canada, Career, Circus, Concentration, Cost, Dream, Erendira, Event, Evita, Family, Goal, Gorge, Harness, Mist, Niagara Falls, Over, Path, Permit, Praying, Real, Room, Ropes, Safety, Slow, Talk, Terry, Tight, Training, Troffer, USA, Viewers, Walk, Wallenda, Water, Weather, Wind, Wire, World, Yanni

Yesterday's Answer: Emotion

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Deng, Bulls hand Orlando Magic first loss

CHICAGO (AP)—For nearly three quarters, the Orlando Magic looked like the team that has been the surprise of young NBA season.

Then, the Chicago Bulls found the right mix.

Luol Deng scored 15 of his 23 points in the second half to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 99-93 win over Orlando on Tuesday night, the Magic's first loss of the season.

Deng and Nate Robinson keyed a 15-2 second-half burst when Chicago turned a five-point deficit into an eight-point lead. Robinson hit two straight jumpers to put Chicago ahead 74-70 early in the fourth, the Bulls' first lead since midway through the third period.

"We executed well," Deng said. "I thought Nate did a good job of looking for his shot and running the plays we were calling."

Deng teamed with fellow starter Joakim Noah and three reserves for most of the run, with Robinson, Jimmy Butler and Taj Gibson making key contributions.

"The guys we had in, Taj and Jimmy, gave us a big lift," Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau said. "Nate also was really good out there. I thought in the second half, we played a lot harder."

Noah had 20 points, nine rebounds and five blocks for Chicago, while Robinson added 11 points and six assists off the bench. Robinson's layup with 2:35 to play put Chicago up 91-81, its biggest lead of the game.

"(Winning is) all that counts, but we need to play better," Noah said. "This isn't going to cut it against a better team. We've just got to keep fighting.

"They're an underrated team. I feel like they've got a lot of offensive firepower, they spread the floor," he added. "It was a good win tonight."

Arron Afflalo led the Magic with 28 points, 19 in the second half. E'Twaun Moore added a career-high 17 points.

"Our lull offensively gave them an opportunity to hit some shots in the fourth quarter," Afflalo said. "It's unfortunate, because it was a game I thought we could have won."

Glen Davis, who entered the game fourth in the NBA with 25.5 points per game, scored 16 points but shot just 7 of 22 from the floor and fouled out.

"The Bulls did a good job of getting us out of our stuff," Davis said. "You have to give them credit. They're a great defensive team."

Nicola Vucevic had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic, who had won three of their last four in Chicago entering the game.

Orlando had started the season 2-0, surprising many around the league after trading star center Dwight Howard to the Los Angeles Lakers over the summer. The Magic came up short in its bid to go 3-0 for just the fourth time in franchise history.

"We can't play one-on-one basketball," Vaughn said. "When we shared the basketball we got good looks. But when we turn it into a one-on-one contest, we're not going to get good looks."

The Magic led 70-65 when the Bulls started their decisive run late in the third quarter. Deng tied the game with a jumper with 10:58 to play. Later, Robinson capped the run with a layup in transition.

"I think we wanted it more," Robinson said. "I think at the end we were more gritty. Coach said whatever it takes to get the win. So tonight, we had to gut it out."

AP

Orlando Magic's Josh McRoberts knocks the ball from the hands of Chicago Bulls' Luol Deng during an NBA basketball game in Chicago on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012. Deng scored 15 of his 23 points in the second half to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 99-93 win.

Orlando trimmed the lead to four on Affalo's 3 in the final minute, but Chicago held on down the stretch. Gibson's dunk and free throw with 39 seconds remaining iced it for the Bulls.

The Magic pushed the lead to seven in the second quarter behind seven points from Moore before Richard Hamilton closed the lead to 48-45 with a pull-up jumper in transition to close the first half.

J.J. Redick continued his hot shooting early with a 3-pointer and a midrange jumper during the spree. Redick hit 16 of 25 shots in Orlando's first two games.

After making his first two shots, Redick hit just one of the next seven before hitting a 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, with Butler sticking to him for most of the second half.

"We just found a way," Noah said. "We fought hard at the end. Jimmy (Butler) gave us a great spark."

The Bulls needed the win after losing to New Orleans on Saturday and with Oklahoma City visiting the United Center on Thursday. The Bulls have not lost two straight at home since a five-game skid from March 1 to 19, 2010.

"This was a tough game," Deng said. "They're playing well and we lost our last game. It's one of those we needed to win. You don't want to lose two, then we've got Oklahoma (City) coming in. The fourth quarter was really good for the team."

Howard disappointed on All-Star ballot changes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard sounded off on the new All-Star Game ballot that eliminates the center designation.

This season's change has fans voting for three frontcourt players, instead of two forwards and one center.

"I don't like it at all," Howard told reporters. "We work just as hard as anybody else. I don't think it's fair to take away a position which has been here for life. You need a center on the court. So I don't think it's right. That's like taking away a guard. That's how I feel. It's been that way since they started All-Star Games, so why change it now? Because centers shoot 3's now?"

The NBA has evolved to the point where big men play more in the open and operate in ways similar to a guard. Some fans and analysts maintain that this had led to fewer players being regarded as legitimate centers.

"The game changes every day," Howard said. "It changes every year. You look at the game back then and now, centers are bigger, stronger, faster. Guards are bigger, stronger, faster. So the game evolves. That doesn't mean you take out a position because of the game evolving, because the players that play center are evolving also."

In other news, New Orleans Hornets coach Monty Williams was fined $25,000 by the NBA on Tuesday for public comments criticizing the league's concussion policy.

Williams made the comments Saturday night in Chicago before the Hornets faced the Bulls with first overall draft pick Anthony Davis sidelined by a mild concussion.

Williams blasted the NBA's protocols for determining when a player can return from a concussion, saying, ''Now, they treat everybody like they have white gloves and pink drawers and it's getting old. It's just the way the league is now."

Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Blake was also fined $25,000 for shouting foul language toward a fan, the NBA announced.

The verbal altercation happened with 29.2 seconds left in the Lakers' 105-95 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers last Friday at Staples Center.

According to ESPNLosAngeles.com, a fan told Blake: "You need to knock down those open shots" and Blake fired back with a comment. He later continued the conversation after fouling out.

Nuggets 109, Piston 97

In Denver, Andre Iguodala scored six of his 17 points over the final three minutes to help the Denver Nuggets hold off the Detroit Pistons 109-97 and snap a three-game skid on Tuesday night.

The Nuggets broke out their new canary yellow uniforms for their home opener and played pretty snazzy, especially late in the third quarter when they began opening up a 17-point lead. The Pistons rallied late, before Iguodala closed the door with two baskets and a pair of free throws. Iguodala also finished with 10 rebounds.

Greg Monroe scored 27 points for the Pistons, who dropped their fourth straight. Detroit and Washington (0-2) are the only winless teams left in the NBA this season.

Before the tipoff, Iguodala grabbed the microphone and gave a speech to the fans waving gold towels in unison: "This is a big year for us. We need your support."

The Nuggets aren't home all that much in the early going, playing 18 of their next 28 away from Pepsi Center.

So far, the road hasn't been kind to Denver. The team kicked off the regular season by dropping three straight in Philly, Orlando and Miami. But they managed to avoid their first 0-4 start since 1998.

Early in the fourth quarter, Iguodala and Corey Brewer hit back-to-back 3-pointers to give the Nuggets a 96-80 lead. Moments later, JaVale McGee brought the crowd to its feet with a thunderous dunk off a lob from Miller.

The Nuggets appeared to be cruising to the win with 7:41 remaining, but the Pistons cut the deficit to seven when Jonas Jerebko stole the ball from Iguodala and went in for the dunk.

Iguodala turned the ball over again on the next possession.

Thunder 108, Raptors 88

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook shrugged off a sore shoulder to score 19 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder cruised past the Toronto Raptors 108-88 on Tuesday night.

Wearing a black padded sleeve to protect his bruised left shoulder, Westbrook held Toronto's leading scorer, Kyle Lowry, to two points on 1-of-4 shooting. Lowry exited with 1:29 left in the second quarter with a right ankle sprain and did not return.

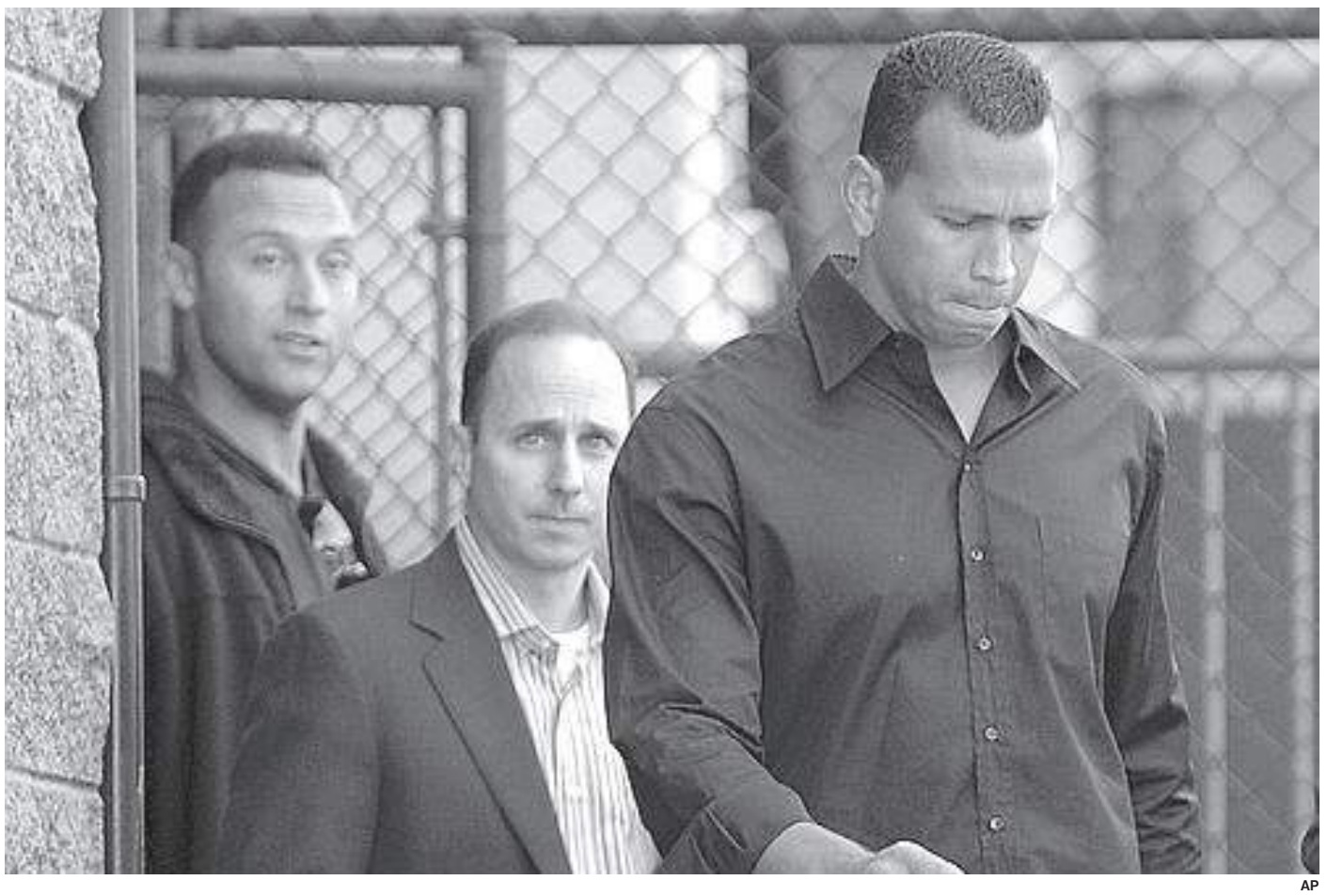
Serge Ibaka added 17 points for Oklahoma City. Kevin Durant and reserve Kevin Martin each scored 15.

The Thunder led by as many as 29 points and never trailed after Durant converted a pair of free throws with 7:44 remaining in the first quarter.

Jonas Valanciunas led the Raptors with 18 points and Andrea Bargnani had 16. Toronto dropped to 1-3 and will play in Dallas on Wednesday night.

Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks was able to rest his starters in the fourth quarter as the Thunder improved to 2-2 with their highest-scoring game of the season. Brooks played 13 of the 14 players on his roster.

Hot stove league: GMs look for trade options



AP

New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman, center, photographed here with Derek Jeter in an undated photo, left, and Alex Rodriguez, said he doesn't anticipate inquiries about Alex Rodriguez in the MLB GMs meeting at Coachella Valley in California.

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)—After a week without power at his home in Connecticut, the New York Yankees' Brian Cashman arrived at the general managers' meetings ready to do business.

The weather was hot, but the trade market was not.

"Do I have something I'm looking to execute while I'm out here? No," he said Tuesday night. "Whatever agents are here, I'll meet with the agents and then obviously have a chance to engage the 29 clubs. I've been with them a few times already. I think there's certain guys that I've been made aware of, but for the most part I think it will be unfolding quietly."

The annual GM meetings, back in the Coachella Valley for the first time in seven years, start just a week after the World Series and often spark discussions that lead to trades and signings later in the offseason. The largest winter meetings, where teams send larger delegations from their organizations, are scheduled for Dec. 3-6 at Nashville, Tenn.

While teams feel each other out to try to determine what trades are possible, Cashman repeated he doesn't anticipate inquiries about Alex Rodriguez, who was benched during the playoffs. A-Rod has $114 million and five years left on his contract.

"I don't see that happening," he said.

The formal part of the meetings start Wednesday, with mornings devoted to briefings by Major League Baseball and administrative discussions. Expanding instant replay to fair-foul calls down the lines and to traps figures to be an offseason-long discussion along with protective headgear for pitchers. A report is on the agenda for the winter meetings.

Cashman said his power at home was restored Sunday, nearly a week after Superstorm Sandy hit. In contrast to the cool weather back home, the high temperature in the Palm Springs area Tuesday was 93 degrees.

Talk about Hot Stove League.

At least publicly, Cashman was reticent to reveal which agents he planned to talk with because of anti-collusion rules put in place a few years ago after concerns raised by the players' association.

"I'm not allowed to say if I'm going to meet with anybody or talk to anybody or if I don't want to talk to anybody," he said. "I got a whole rundown."

Yankees claim Whiteside off waivers from Giants

NEW YORK (AP)—Giving themselves another backup catching option, the New York Yankees have claimed Eli Whiteside off waivers from the San Francisco Giants.

The 33-year-old was 1 for 11 in 12 games for the Giants this year, when he hit .224 with one homer and 20 RBIs in 60 games at Triple-A Fresno. He appeared in 56 games for San Francisco's World Series champions in 2010 and 82 last year. He was not on this year's World Series roster as the Giants won their second title in three years.

New York starter Russell Martin became a free agent. Chris Stewart was his backup, with Francisco Cervelli at Triple-A. Austin Romine was limited to 31 games in the minor leagues because of a back injury.

Meanwhile, the Houston Astros have hired David Stearns as assistant general manager.

The 27-year-old Stearns was Cleveland's director of baseball operations last season. Before joining the Indians, the Harvard graduate spent three seasons working in the commissioner's office. He was on the league's negotiating committee for the collective bargaining agreement that was completed last November, and worked with clubs on contract negotiations and salary arbitration.

Before joining the commissioner's office, Sterns worked in baseball operations for the New York Mets, the Pirates and the Arizona Fall League.

Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow says he was highly recommended and will be an asset to the team.

In other news, the St. Louis Cardinal have promoted John Mabry from assistant hitting coach to hitting coach to replace Mark McGwire, who left to become the Los Angeles Dodgers hitting coach.

The Cardinals also announced that Triple-A pitching coach Blaise Ilsley will be their new bullpen coach. He replaces Dyar Miller, the only member of Mike Matheny's coaching staff who was not asked to return.

Loomis returns to Saints in unsettled times

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Now that New Orleans general manager Mickey Loomis has returned to work, the Saints need his crisis-management skills to be sharp.

The organization continues to be rife with unsettled issues, some of which have made its fan base uneasy.

So there was no time for Loomis to ease back into a routine Tuesday after serving his eight-game suspension in connection with the NFL's bounty probe of the Saints.

His immediate tasks include clearing up the status of Sean Payton's contract extension through 2015, which NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has so far refused to approve since the coach signed it in 2011.

Recent revelations that Payton is still not officially under contract beyond this season have only pushed anxiety-ridden Saints fans closer to panic. New Orleans has struggled while Payton has served his season-long bounty suspension, which, in the minds of many, has only strengthened the fiery and innovative coach's value.

Loomis also will have to oversee contingency plans in the event that defensive end Will Smith and linebacker Jonathan Vilma have to serve their own bounty suspensions, which so far have been delayed by legal moves.

The GM kept a low profile on his first day back.

The Saints did not make him available to reporters and he did not immediately respond to requests for comments about his return to his Saints duties.

Assistant head coach Joe Vitt said even he did not have much time to chat with Loomis when they met Tuesday morning, but Vitt stressed that people throughout the organization were comforted by knowledge that the GM was back for the last half of what has already been an extraordinarily eventful season.

"Listen, Mickey and Sean are the leaders of this building. It's not only great for Mickey to be back for our players and our coaching staff, but every person in our building," Vitt said. "Slowly but surely we're starting to get people back. Everybody knows here what Mickey means to me, but he also means just as much to everybody else in our building and our football team."

Vitt also sounded skeptical of the idea that Payton would leave.

"Our football team loves Sean Payton. Sean Payton loves this football team," Vitt said. "Sean Payton loves this city. And this city loves Sean Payton. That goes a long way. That's what I know."

At 3-5, the Saints are playoff longshots as they head into next Sunday's showdown in the Superdome with undefeated NFC South Division leaders Atlanta (8-0). Yet a sense of hope permeated team headquarters after a 28-13 victory over Philadelphia on Monday night that marked New Orleans' third victory in four games.

"I love this football team. I love the resolve. I love the togetherness. I love their work habits," Vitt said. "All that being said, we've got to get better this week."

If the Saints are to get better, such strides will have to be made in an environment of uncertainty.

Two people familiar with Payton's contract situation told The Associated Press that the Saints and Payton still see nothing wrong with a provision in the coach's extension that would allow Payton to opt out of his contract if Loomis—who hired Payton in 2006—were to leave the club. The people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the NFL and Saints have declined public comment on the matter, say the Saints and Payton believe the provision is similar to one that allowed Bill Parcells to leave his post as executive vice president with Miami if ownership changed.

Goodell has not publicly specified his problem with Payton's extension, which pays more than $6 million a year. The NFL has said the commissioner has not made a final determination about Payton's contract status for next season. Goodell has said, however, that he has discussed his concerns with the Saints and asked the club to rework part of the deal.

Although Payton is suspended, he and the Saints currently may address Goodell's concerns with the extension, providing some hope of resolving the matter before the coach effectively becomes a free agent.

Another major area of uncertainty involves ongoing challenges to players' bounty suspensions.

Although Goodell has recused himself as arbitrator for four current or former Saints players' appeals of their bounty suspensions, the players—Smith, Vilma, Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita and free agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove—objected to Goodell's decision to appoint former commissioner Paul Tagliabue to handle the matter. The players say Tagliabue has a conflict because he works for the law firm that has represented the NFL in bounty-related matters. Tagliabue has given no indication he intends to step down, leaving the matter for a federal judge in New Orleans to decide.

In the meantime, Smith and Vilma keep playing, and Saints coaches make weekly game plans on the assumption they'll have the two defenders in the lineup.

"You have to have a little bit of foresight should something happen. We've kind of just been under that thing all year long," defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo said. "Once we know the week is set the way the week is, we just move on and worry about the opponent we're playing."

The Saints won't want to lose Smith and Vilma, given their leadership roles on a unit that needs help. The Saints are last in the NFL in yards allowed (471.3 per game) but did come through with clutch plays against the Eagles, including Patrick Robinson's interception return for a touchdown, a fumble recovery and seven sacks. Smith had two sacks and Vilma had two tackles for losses.

If the suspensions are upheld, Smith will have to serve four games and Vilma the rest of the season.

Saints linebacker Scott Shanle said he hopes that won't happen, but added that the Saints know worrying about it won't do any good.

"We're at the point now where it seems like every week there's something new to distract us, so people are like, `The hell with it. We'll wait to figure it out when the time comes,'" Shanle said. "We're trying to fight our way back into something and with all the distractions we've had week in and week out, I think guys just kind of put blinders on."

Try Luck keeps title; Mafia, Outlawz share top honors

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck seized its third straight Ladies League title in what was yet another whale of a run for the group in Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Bud Light Open Dart League.

Try Luck doubled-up Oceanside's Shooters G-Side (81-129) at home last week, 10-5, to come away with a field best 161-40 record.

In a distant second and behind by 20 games came Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Momes'l Mei (141-69), which brushed off Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Man Amigas (95-115) at home, 11-4, as the Top 3 podium finishers ended up spaced out above the pack. The third placer Es'y Kitchen's B-52 Shooters (127-83) even sat 20 games above fourth-ranked Joe's Steakhouse's Just Like Dat (97-113).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Oceanside Bar & Grill's Triple Threat, pictured in this file photo, secured first place in the Tuesday B division of Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Summer/Fall Bud Light Open Dart League.

Notably, Es'y Kitchen's B-52 Shooters went into SOS and brushed of the Wonder Women (83-127), 10-5, while Joe's Steakhouse's escaped past Daffodils (55-15) in a home draw, 9-8.

Season notables resulted in a 160-high in by Momes'l Mei's Frances Magofna and a 152-high out by her teammate Sally Aguon.

Meanwhile, A division's Mafia of Oceanside Bar & Grill, and SOS Bar & Grill's Outlawz played the role of two-headed monsters this season, however in the end the pair are tangled atop the standings and wound up settling for a share of the title.

Mafia hung tough and survived Bud Brothers (102-102) in a road draw, 9-8, but was engaged in a tie with the Outlawz, which made a run down at the home stretch with a 12-5 road rout over Sands Bar's Predators (95-109). Mafia and Outlawz wrapped up the season with similar 126-78 cards.

The Bud Brothers came in next, seven games in front of the Predators, while Bammy's Sabalu Boys (90-114) hung on over SOS's 101-Proofers (89-115) at home, 9-8. SOS's Mixblood Shooters (86-118) brought up the rear and were on a bye.

Season notables resulted in a 160-high In by 101-Proofers' Rolly Bermiso and a 152-high out by Mafia's Arthur Miranda

In the Tuesday B field, Oceanside's Triple Threat soundly bested seven other teams to claim the division crown.

Triple Threat padded its lead at the buzzer by three more games with a solid 9-6 road win over the third-ranked VWF Post 3457's Delubyo (115-95). The Tuesday B winner had finished the season with a 152-52 slate.

In second place and 21 games behind came Naked Fish's Na'Gupu II (131-79), which breezed past Oceanside Wreckless Precision (47-163) on the road, 10-5.

In other results, SOS' Dartaholiks (108-102) and Oceanside's Good Guyz (105-105) mustered identical 9-6 road wins over Seabridge's 80-Proofers (98-112) and The Waterfront's K-1 Scorpions (77-133), respectively.

Season notables included a 150-high in by K-1 Scorpions' Anson Jones and a 123-high out by Good Guyz' Dexter Brennan.

JOSHUA

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mester, but assured his Monday through Thursday schedule is running smoothly.

"Of course, school always comes first," Jones said. "As for baseball, it' awesome! I'm looking forward to getting out there in the spring when the games get serious and everything counts. Hopefully, we win so we can represent our region in the Junior College World Series (JUCO)."

Jones also offered high praises to his coaches, especially his pitching coach, Sean Lydon, who has made progress with Jones by inserting a change-up into his bag of tricks.

The coaches were also impressed with Jones' skills at the plate, however they opted to refrain from letting him bat, at least for now, in fear of having the young hurler suffer an injury.

Notably, Jones is among the seven Colby players who were picked up outside of the US mainland. Guam's R-Jay John is also on the list, while the other prospects include one player each from Australia and Spain, and three others from Canada.

The Colby Trojans are a Division I member of the National Junior College Athletics Association. They finished conference play with 15 wins and 17 losses last year, but managed to come out in the green overall in 2012 with their 30 wins and 25 losses.

So far, aside from Kansas where Jones has found time to have some fun getting accustomed to campus life in the dorms, he got to see the Nebraska and Colorado countryside for some away games during the fall. He also was fortunate in finding time to visit his girlfriend, Jenn Sablan, in Boise, Idaho.

In closing, Jones offered an early Happy Thanksgiving greetings to everyone back home and also shared hopes of returning to Saipan in 2014 to represent the CNMI in the Micronesian Games.

PIKA-BOO

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The aspirants were entailed on writing an essay expressing their level of devotion to achieving success and representing the team, the sport of MMA, and themselves with honor, among other key points.

"Frank was the biggest help, if it wasn't for him it could have taken years to get accepted. Master Lloyd had us write the letters to see how serious we are about committing to the level of hard work ahead of us and he kept what we wrote on file so he can use our declarations to hold us accountable for them from day one. We aren't Master Lloyd's regular choice of recruits, but thanks to Frank we were blessed with the opportunity," Shane said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* last week.

Shane received an invitation from Camacho, with Master Irvin's blessing, about two years ago to check out the "trip" for a few months, but the former's family felt he was too young at that time to travel and be on his own for that long period.

Then in September this year, Shane was fortunate to get the green light from Master Irvin to submit his essay and his father Cuki Alvarez of Trench Tech Purebred Promotions managed to convince the sensei to let Roman plead his case as well.

"I am extremely excited and in total awe that this is really happening. The thought of leaving my family, my girlfriend (Josifynn "Peachy" Quituguа-Rasa) and my friends is saddening, but I'm confident it will all be worth it in the end. I vow to make the CNMI proud and show the world that though our islands are tiny, we pack a huge punch," Shane said.

He added, "I've never been to the states and admit that I'm a little nervous, but I've been long envisioning an opportunity like this, and have both Frank and my cousin with me. We are all living our dream, which is the only way to live."

Shane will likely not catch a chance to visit home for at least one year, which means that he will not be able to follow through with the December rematch he beseeched with Trench Tech featherweight champion Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig (5-6).

Shane called out Wusstig after the Countershot MMA product from Guam defended his title against Trench Tech Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse (9-5) in September this year during the Rites of Passage 13: Destiny.

The Guam fighter also issued Shane (8-1) his first-ever loss upon seizing the belt in December 2011's Trench Warz 15: Supremacy.

Though his plans have changed recently, Shane is still hungry for the rematch, which may go down whenever he makes it back home in the future, provided Master Irvin grants him permission.

"Wusstig was a very tough opponent and I think we both came into the fight equally prepared, but physics took over during the fight. He was bigger, and a little stronger than me, but I still believe the decision could have gone either way. To this day I feel that I had won because it did not appear to me that he was able to defend any of my takedowns. I was disappointed in the decision based on the notion that in order to be the champion, you have to beat the champion, but I have since accepted the loss and will use the experience to motivate myself more," the Trench Tech bet said.

Though cage matches are likely not in the cards anytime soon for Shane and Roman, who is flawless in three tries thus far in his young career, both are looking forward to competing in various grappling and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu competitions once Master Irvin decides they are ready.

UPSET

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against two other squads.

Matansa failed to extend its run after only Maile Aldrich scored against Tan Holdings. Aldrich's goal only came in the second half, which started with Tan Holdings enjoying a 3-0 advantage.

Elizabeth Phan gave Tan Holdings an early goal, as she found the back of the net just 16 seconds into the game. Chloe Salvosa then made it a 2-0 count off her goal in the fourth minute, while Mary Kay Alferos stretched the lead further with a goal nine minutes before the first 25 minutes of play elapsed. Maile then gave Matansa some hope with a her goal two minutes into the second half, but Tan Holdings hung tough on defense in the remaining minutes to secure the upset.

IFC-2 6, MP United-2 1

Independents FC-2 also gained its first win after losing four and drawing one, following its demolition of MP United 2.

Windy Orcine paced IFC-2 with her pair of goals, while Vanessa Gramlich, Coquina Teregeyo, Jazmin Rayphand, and Melanie Nakamura logged one goal apiece. Gramlich lit up the scoreboard for IFC-2 in the opening minute, while MP United also scored early with Rosalie Litulimar's goal in the second minute.

Orcine then broke the deadlock with her back-to-back goals in a span of two minutes (13th and 15th), while Teregeyo also contributed in IFC-2's cause with a goal just 13 seconds before the first half ended.

Rayphand and Nakamura completed IFC-2's dominance of MP United-2 after scoring in the 31st and 33rd.

Shirley's FC 7, Paire 5

Diana Maniacop, Reylynn Sapong, and Glorily Williams joined forces to help Shirley's FC survive the explosive game of Paire's Guinevere Borja.

Borja drilled all of Paire's five goals, but they were offset by the two goals apiece of Sapong, Maniacop, and Williams. Charizama Aragon nailed the other goal for Shirley's.

Maniacop and Sapong gave Shirley's two goals in less than a minute, scoring at the 2:20 and 2:57 marks, respectively, and recorded their second goal a few minutes later (3:20 and 5:30) before Williams joined the spree with her first goal in the 10th minute.

Borja finally put Paire in the board in the 11th minute and got her second goal in the 16th to keep her team in contention. Borja was still unstoppable in the second half, but obviously needed the help of her teammates to bail out Paire, but got none. Shirley's received some, as Williams scored anew in the 32nd minute and Aragon followed suit three minutes later.

BEACH

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our local volleyball and golf associations about the University Games and they and other interested groups have until next month during the NMASA meeting to submit an expression of interest letter," White said.

NMASA as a regular FISU member is automatically given two slots to the University Games and athletes to be selected will get an all-expense paid trip to Kazan for the July 6 to 17 tournament. However, the CNMI could send a maximum of four athletes to the competition and if more than four are nominated, NMASA will implement a selection process to determine the Commonwealth's representatives to the University Games.

Swimmer Rezne Wong and biker Matthew Mancao were the first ones to compete for the CNMI in the University Games, as they travelled to Shenzhen, China, last year.

RGA member Tony Rogolifoi said their group is considering sending L.J. Camacho for the tournament in Kazan. Camacho is a student of Northern Marianas College and has been holding his ground against veteran golfers on the island. He regularly competes in RGA monthly tournaments.

As for NMIVA, it has yet to name its possible nominee to the University Games, which is for athletes in the 17 to 28 age group and enrolled in a university/college or post secondary course.

Besides beach volleyball and golf, 25 other sports are scheduled in the tournament in Kazan. The list includes artistic gymnastics, athletics, badminton, basketball, belt wrestling, boxing, canoe, chess, diving, fencing, field hockey, football, judo, rhythmic gymnastics, sailing, rugby 8, sambo, shooting, swimming, synchronized swimming, tennis, table tennis, volleyball, water polo, weightlifting, and wrestling.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	3	0	1.000	–
Brooklyn	1	1	.500	1½
Boston	1	2	.333	2
Philadelphia	1	2	.333	2
Toronto	1	3	.250	2½

Southeast Division

Miami	3	1	.750	–
Orlando	2	1	.667	½
Charlotte	1	1	.500	1
Atlanta	1	1	.500	1
Washington	0	2	.000	2

Central Division

Milwaukee	2	0	1.000	–
Chicago	3	1	.750	–
Indiana	2	2	.500	1
Cleveland	2	2	.500	1
Detroit	0	4	.000	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	4	0	1.000	–
Dallas	3	1	.750	1
Memphis	2	1	.667	1½
Houston	2	1	.667	1½
New Orleans	2	1	.667	1½

Northwest Division

Minnesota	2	1	.667	–
Oklahoma City	2	2	.500	½
Portland	2	2	.500	½
Utah	1	3	.250	1½
Denver	1	3	.250	1½

Pacific Division

Golden State	2	2	.500	–
L.A. Clippers	2	2	.500	–
Sacramento	1	3	.250	1
Phoenix	1	3	.250	1
L.A. Lakers	1	3	.250	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012 Emon Lodge 179-Docomo Brotherhood Cup

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Hoops' Gus Palacios is hounded by Armatech defenders during their game in the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Hoops' Trevor Ogumoro, left, drives against Mobil's Gil Gapor.

Mobil's Banjo Basila rams into the defense of Pacific Islands Club's Brett Sutton.

Pacific Islands Club's Darwin Barbo drives and draws a foul against Mobil's Larry Sharry, right.

A phalanx of Mobil defenders gangs up on Hi-Five's Alex Standish.

The Archers' Noel David goes up for a finger-roll against Hi-Five defenders.

Armatech's Elmer Esdrelon, right, taps the ball from Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman.

Ashley's/Brabu's Brendon Talania, left, pulls up for a fadeway jumper against Armatech's Art Trajano, center.

Mobil's Angelo Fernando, left, stretches for a layup against Fong's Bakery's Ed Yalung.

Pacific Islands Club's Rommel Bartolo pulls up for a jumper against an Island Servitek defender.

The CNMI's Joshua Jones is seen here pitching for Colby Community College in one of the Trojans' preseason games last month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joshua Jones earns starting pitcher spot

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan's southpaw phenom Joshua Jones is already showing signs of promise after suiting up for Colby Community College Trojans' fall exhibition games.

During the team's 19-game preseason stint, which took place from Sept. 1 to Oct.21, Jones manned the hump for 20 innings, giving up only six hits and five walks, while maintaining a perfect 0.00 Earned Run Average in the progress.

His performance impressed his coaches to the point that the freshman earned a starting pitcher spot on the team's All-Conference rotation, which opens this spring. Jones, who wears jersey No. 4, is catalogued as one of 20 pitchers on Colby's 36-man roster and the beloved Pacific region standout from Kagman High School is listed at 5'10" and 165lbs.

Though Jones humbly admitted that unlike back home where he routinely fans the majority of the batters who step into the box, he does not log nearly as many strikeouts on the college level. However, he still sat down 32 batters during the fall matches and that is still a very respectable mark.

In the classroom, Jones is handling an ample 17-credit hour workload this se-

See JOSHUA on Page 26

Beach v'ball, golf groups mull Uni Games stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association and the Refaluwasch Golf Association are interested in sending athletes to the 27th Summer Universiade in Kazan, Russia, next year.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White announced the two groups' plan of participating in the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (International University Sports Federation) event during the NMASA meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"We received inquiries from

See BEACH on Page 26

'Pika-Boo' joins Team Lloyd Irvin

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Shane "Pika-Boo" Alvarez left the CNMI last night to join a prestigious MMA school in the US mainland and start realizing his lifelong dream of becoming a professional mixed martial artist.

Alvarez left the island after receiving a word a few weeks ago that he and his cousin Roman "Boom" Alvarez were accepted into the distinguished Team Lloyd Irvin MMA Academy based in Camp Springs, Maryland, thanks largely to a well-received recommendation from Trench Tech Purebred pioneer Frank "The Crank" Camacho.

Notably, Roman is originally from Tiyan, Guam, but he and Shane are almost inseparable pals since they were little kids. Now at the ripe young ages of 19 and 18, Shane and Roman have made arrangements to bunk up with "The Crank," as the four-year Lloyd Irvin MMA affiliate serves as an ideal role model for the two aspiring athletes.

The trio shares one common goal of each becoming Ultimate Fighter Championship world champions, thus Shane and Roman will be fully investing themselves into achieving their goal so much that even school and work come second to their primary objective.

Needless to say, the pair is ecstatic after receiving the thumbs up from Master Irvin.

Shane and Roman underwent a screening procedure where they had to convince Master Irvin that they are, in fact, worthy of the opportunity to join the elite circle.

See PIKA-BOO on Page 26

Shane "Pika-Boo" Alvarez, right, poses for a photo with cousin Roman "Boom" Alvarez during a Gi training session in October last year at Trench Tech's affiliate Purebred Jiu-Jitsu Guam Gym in the Anigua Commercial Building in Hagatna, Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Upset in women's futsal league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IFC-1 players (in white uniforms) wait for the next play during their game against MP United-1 in Division B of the NMIFA futsal league last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings FC recorded the biggest win in Division B matches in the 2012 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League last Monday after stunning the then undefeated Matansa FC, 3-1, at the TSL Sports Complex.

The victory was only the first for Tan Holdings, which had already dropped four matches and earned one draw to laze at the bottom half of the nine-team field. Matansa, on the other hand, is at the top of the team standings, winning its first five matches before falling prey to the upset axe of Tan Holdings. Matansa still occupies the No. 1 spot in Division B, but leads by only one win

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